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"Totally gutted" was how Lawrence Nugent, co-ordinator of the Glasgow Coalition of Disabled People, described his feelings about the Civil Rights Bill getting talked out of Parliament. He joined the demonstration outside Downing Street on 18 May. (Full story page 4)

MIKE HELBY

Civil rights? No, just consultation

To the anger and frustration of disabled people all over the country, and accusations of skulduggery on the part of the Government, the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill was talked out of the Commons on 6 and 20 May.

There were calls for the resignation of Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott after he admitted misleading the House by saying his department had played no part in drafting the 82 amendments which sabotaged the Bill.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said that "No one could have accepted a Bill, as drafted, with a cost compliance calculated at £17 billion, and a yearly on-cost of £1 billion".

He promised Government consultation "within the next six months" on proposals to end discrimination against disabled people in jobs, access to goods and services, financial services and access to buildings, and also to set up a new advisory body on disability.

He said the Government "will take account of the views of everyone with an interest in disability" and then "consider assisting in the drafting of practical and workable legislation that will help the disabled."

The Government's £17 billion estimate has been criticised.

Stephen Bradshaw, chair of Voluntary Organisations for

Anti-Discrimination Legislation, with 35 members, said: "These figures have been based on implementation within five years. But the Bill no longer specifies a time period for phase-in. It would be up to the Secretary of State.

"Disabled people are not unreasonable. They do not expect everything to be accessible overnight. These estimates are based on a false premise."

Labour MP Dr Roger Berry, sponsor of the Bill, said the cost assessment was "absurd".

The Government estimates that each disabled employee would cost an employer £500 extra to "accommodate" their needs and allow for equal wages for lower productivity.

Tory MP Sir John Hannam, chairman of the All Party Disablement Group, has said the productivity issue is "another misconception". The Bill would not make employers pay equal wages to less productive employees.

In the USA, the Job Accommodation Network, funded through the Department of

Continued on page 2

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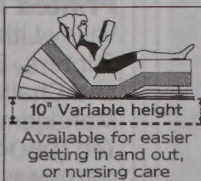
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Special offer for NI readers

The first 25 readers to introduce a new paying subscriber to *DN* at the Mobility Roadshow will receive a family ticket (worth £12.50) for Carrickfergus Castle and the thrilling Knight Ride. See page 15.

Pensioners fear gas price rises

Consumer groups and charities fear millions of pensioners and disabled people will face an increase in gas bills when the Government ends the British Gas monopoly of domestic supply in 1996.

Energy Minister Tim Eggar said competition would cut prices when he presented a consultation document on the new system last month. But the Gas Consumers' Council (GCC) warned that those least able to afford increases may face higher charges, as subsidies for low gas users are likely to be scrapped and discounts

given to bigger users.

GCC director Ian Power said: "Low income consumers, hardest hit by VAT, will gain nothing. They could face higher bills because prices will have to be put up at the bottom end of the market - low users in smaller houses - so that all consumers can be supplied at a profit."

Labour claimed that 12 million people will be worse off under the new system. Consumer affairs spokesman Nigel Griffiths said people with incomes under £60 a week will see their average annual bills leap from £150.30 to £181.80,

while families with incomes under £100 a week will have to find another £17 a year. He said: "We fear that regulations currently binding British Gas might be watered down and standing charges might rise."

Sally Witcher, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "We are very sceptical about promises that gas bills will not go up."

An Age Concern spokesman said: "Any rise would be devastating for many older people."

British Gas said it was too soon to say how many people would be affected by price rises.

Mike Harper showed off his Sharechair at the National Association of Bikers with a Disability (NABD) annual rally, and promptly picked up two awards: best adaptation and best combination. Mike, paralysed from the chest down after a motorcycle accident, designed and built the Sharechair. How did it get its name? "If people want to join me for a ride, they have to sit in my wheelchair: total role reversal."

Mike Harper, tel: (0495) 308023.
NABD, tel: 061-437 8395.



Just consultation
Continued from page 1

Labour, advises companies on adaptations for employees. A spokesperson told *DN* that, since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990, 67 per cent of "accommodations" (such as equipment or access) cost under \$500 (£332).

Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott has claimed that the Bill would lead to more legal actions.

Bob Boorstin, special assis-

tant to the US President in the White House, and communication director for health care reform, disagrees. He told *DN*: "After the ADA was passed, a lot of people said it would add to the litigiousness of American society. That has not turned out to be the case."

A spokesman for the Department of Justice, which enforces the public access and services sections of ADA, said that, so far, the Department had been involved in only 15 court cases.

"At the end of the day, of course, this isn't about the cost. It is about basic human rights," said Roger Berry. "You never hear anyone complain about the cost of democracy. This is the same thing."

See also page 4

Conveen Systems



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Carers call for help

More than 25 per cent of carers have not heard of community care, a national survey revealed last month.

Community Care: Just a Fairy Tale? also found that 74 per cent of carers said there has been no assessment of the needs of the person they care for; 79 per cent said the changes had made no difference to them and only 13 per cent noticed an improvement under community care.

Based on interviews with 426 carers, the survey was carried out for the Carers' National Association (CNA) by Norman Warner, a senior fellow at the University of Kent.

He said the findings showed carers needed more information and a statutory right to assessment. "The jury is still out on whether community care will improve the lot of carers. On the evidence of this survey, carers are distinctly underwhelmed."

£12.50, from the CNA, tel: 071-490 8818.

Access to grub

More than 100 members of Disability Action Network staged an eat-in demonstration outside a restaurant in Camden, North London, last month in protest at a "no disabled" sign.

The protesters set up a table and had a picnic at the entrance to the Goodfayre restaurant, which was persuaded to remove the sign.

Northern Mobility

Visitors to the Northern Mobility Roadshow at the Sheffield Arena on 17 and 18 June will be able to try 40 different vehicles in a safe, off-road, test-drive area, after looking at the vehicles in the show.

Vehicles will have a range of adaptations, plus dual controls. Interested drivers should bring their licenses. If they do not have one, an expert will advise people on their ability and the type of adaptation to try. A BSM driving instructor will also be on hand. The show is free, has over 225 stands and extensive car parking.

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DN next month

- * Chelsea Flower Show, Gioya Steinke reports
- * Midlands Naidex: DN sends in the experts
- * Community care (4): Chris Davies on organising care
- * Out and About this summer
- ... plus arts, motoring, share your problems and the news!



"I'll have to hang up now, the bus has come." Camden Council worker Krishna Manandhar makes a call from London's, first fully accessible telephone kiosk - in a bus shelter - while councillor Ray Adamson and Katy wait their turn. It is the first of ten that will open in the next few weeks.

Disabled man fights eviction

A severely disabled man with schizophrenia is facing eviction from his bungalow because of a dispute over who should pay his housing costs.

The Nationwide Building Society is seeking a repossession order on the home of Robert Moore in Addlestone, Surrey, to recover mortgage arrears of £8,700 which have built up since the Department of Social Security (DSS) stopped benefit payments to cover his housing costs.

The mortgage is about £1,200 a month, but if he is evicted the local social services or housing department may have to pay far more to accommodate him. The National Schizophrenia Fellowship (NSF), which is helping Mr Moore fight his case, says suitable accommodation and care could cost £5,000 a month.

Mr Moore was bought the house by his sister after he was discharged from hospital. She was told Runnymede Council would pay him housing benefit and planned to charge him rent to pay for the mortgage repay-

ments. The council paid some benefit, but not enough. In 1990, the DSS agreed to pay the rent through Mr Moore's Income Support, but in 1992 told her it could no longer pay because Mr Moore was a tenant.

Although the Social Security Commissioner ruled in March that the DSS had a liability to pay the mortgage interest, it has not done so since 1992.

In a bid to stop Mr Moore being evicted, NSF has asked Surrey Council to pay off the arrears, arguing that under the Mental Health Act it has a duty to ensure adequate after-care services, including housing. The council said it did not have powers to do this.

A NSF spokesperson said: "This case makes a mockery of community care. If Surrey refuse to pay, we will advise Mr Moore to seek a judicial review."

As DN went to press, Runnymede Council had offered Mr Moore a shared ownership arrangement. The DSS said it could not comment on the case.

Thousands hit by Income Support 'freeze'

A new report by Age Concern says almost 300,000 older people who began living in voluntary or private sector care homes before April 1993 face an uncertain future because their benefit has "effectively been frozen".

These older people were given the upper limit of Income

Support to pay for their care. They are still eligible for the payments, as their right has been preserved, but only up to levels set by Government. This means that when care home fees rise, or an individual needs more expensive care, they can get no extra help.

Age Concern wants the Gov-

ernment to increase Income Support limits to "realistic levels", allow councils to maintain people in existing homes and ensure they get free health services. Director Sally Green-gross said: "It is wrong that a state-funded system should force people to seek charitable help or make relatives feel

obliged to pay for care."

A DSS spokesman denied the rates had been frozen. He said: "The limit for elderly people in residential care homes rose by 13 per cent in real terms between 1985 and April 1993."

Preserved - and Protected?, £2, Age Concern, tel: 081-679 8000.



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DN 6/94

Government sham kills off Civil Rights Bill

By Mike Helby

Nicholas Scott, Minister for Disabled People, instructed Parliamentary Counsel to draft the amendments that four Tory MPs used to kill off the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill 16 days before it was talked out at Report Stage on 6 May.

During that debate he told the House: "to the best of my knowledge, nobody in my department has been involved in the drafting of any amendments in this area".

Four days later, he had to offer his unreserved apologies to the House, and calls for his resignation began. As *DN* went to press, he was still Minister for Disabled People.

Labour MP Dr Roger Berry, who introduced the Bill, told *DN*: "It is quite inconceivable that he did anything other than knowingly mislead the House."

The four MPs who the Government used to channel its amendments were Lady Olga Maitland, member for Sutton & Cheam, Michael Stern, member for Bristol North West, Richard Spring, member for Bury St Edmunds, and Edward Leigh, member for Gainsborough & Horncastle.

Lady Olga repeatedly denied that her nine amendments were anything but her own work. "I make my own plans on my new clauses and amendments," she replied to Alf Morris MP, who asked if she had drafted a clause herself, or if it had been "fed to her by Government".

Lady Olga also denied that she was helping to talk the Bill out. Yet, with less than 15 minutes of Parliamentary time left, she continued to argue for one of her amendments, even after it had been accepted by the Bill's supporters.

"I choose to carry on with my explanation, for the benefit of the House," she said.

Eight weeks earlier, at the Bill's Second Reading, Lady Olga voted in support of it. And in a letter dated 28 April, she told Disability Action Sutton: "I just wanted to reassure you that I am still giving support to the Civil Rights Bill."

Five days later, on 3 May, she tabled the Government drafted amendments to the Bill.

Unfortunately, Lady Olga was abroad when *DN* called to ask about her change of heart.

An Early Day Motion (EDM) condemning the actions of the Conservative MPs who talked out the Bill on 6 May by introducing over 80 amendments has been supported by 35 MPs. The EDM calls upon those four MPs to "withdraw the remaining amendments tabled in their names but drafted by the Government".

* Technically, the Bill was not dead after 6 May, and was scheduled to carry on its Report Stage on 20 May, just as *DN* was going to press. It was discussed, but again was talked out after Nicholas Scott spoke for over an hour.



Four disabled people were arrested at a demonstration opposite Downing Street on 18 May to protest about Conservative MPs talking out the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. Johnny Crescendo, national organiser of Direct Action Network (DAN), Gordon Bright from Southampton DAN, Chris Hughes from Derbyshire DAN and Agnes Fletcher were later released with a caution. Members of DAN, which advocates non-violent civil disobedience to fight for civil rights for disabled people, stopped a bus outside Richmond House, where Nicholas Scott has his office, and handcuffed themselves to it.

MIKE HELBY

Lords win eases incapacity rules

The Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Bill, which will introduce Incapacity Benefit next April, has been amended in the House of Lords after peers defeated the Government for a second time.

The amendments mean that people who are severely disabled, and get higher rate Disability Living Allowance, will receive the benefit's full rate after 28 weeks, rather than having to wait for a year.

People with dependent children will also be able to get the full rate after 28 weeks.

DWA rises announced

Viscount Astor, the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Security, used the Bill's Report Stage to announce an increase in Disability Working Allowance for couples, by up to £8.35 a week from next April.

He also announced the introduction of a disabled child's premium of £19.45 a week for families with a dependent disabled child, and an increase in the amount a single person can earn per week and still receive DWA, from £108 to £118.

Building access consultations are promised

Secretary of State for the Environment John Gummer has announced that the Building Regulations Advisory Committee has been considering extending the access provisions for disabled people to new dwellings in England and Wales. Present regulations apply only to non-domestic buildings.

This is in line with the Government's promise to consult on a range of issues, including building regulations (*see page 1*).

Detailed proposals would be put out for consultation, accompanied by a compliance cost assessment, which will estimate how much any changes to the regulations could cost.

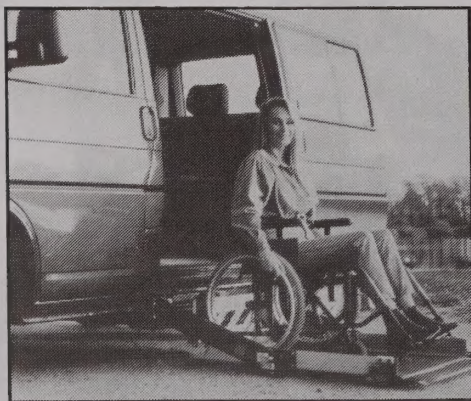
The committee is also considering whether to improve access provisions which already apply to non-domestic buildings. Any proposals will be put out for consultation.

Voluntary work will not affect benefit

People claiming Sickness Benefit, Invalidity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance can now do up to 16 hours a week voluntary work without affecting their benefit, or having to convince an adjudication officer that the work would be therapeutic.

Announcing the measure, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Security Lord Astor said: "I recognise that voluntary work plays a significant role in helping some people make a gradual transition back to work."

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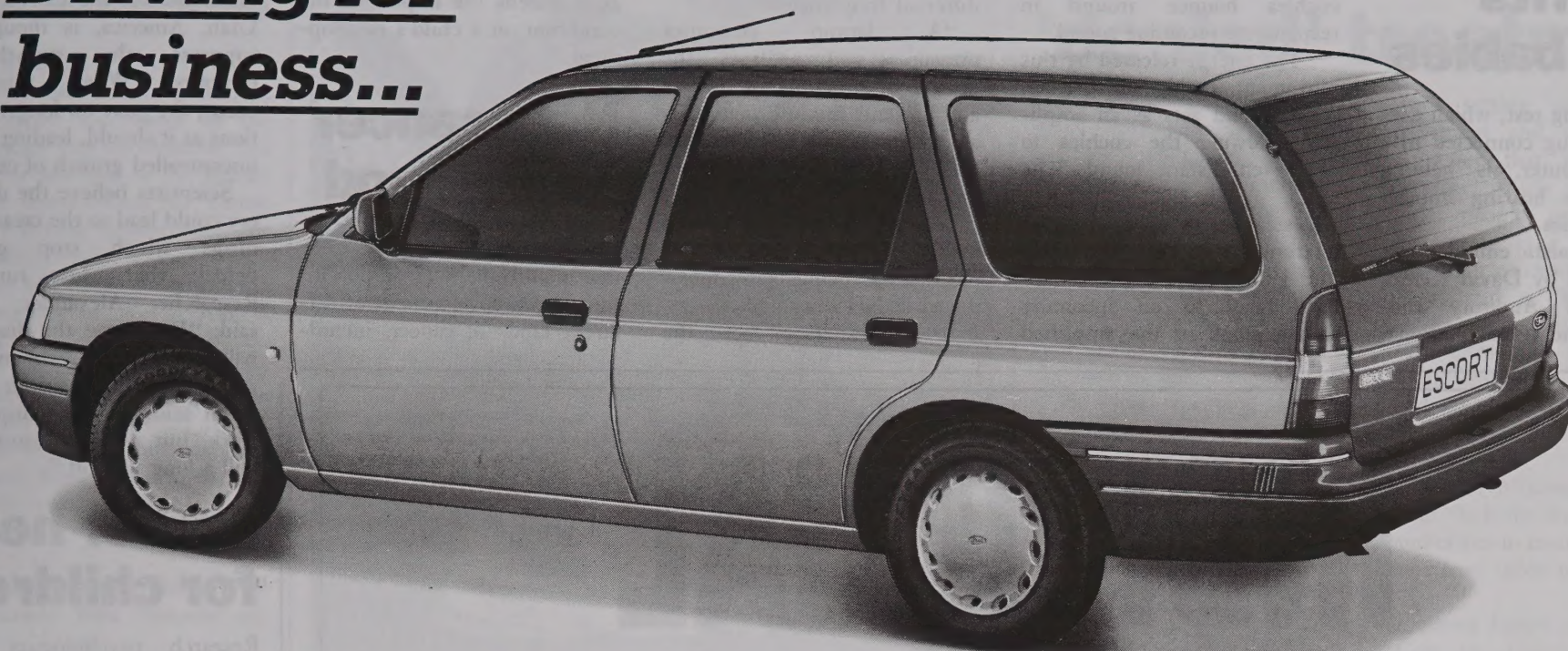
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Ear test benefits deaf babies

A new hearing test, which uses a tiny ear plug connected to a laptop computer, is helping doctors trace hearing impairments in babies.

The otoacoustic emission test was invented by David Kemp, Professor of Auditory Biophysics at the Royal National

Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, London, after he discovered that thousands of cells in the cochlea bounce around in response to incoming sound.

"The energy released by this movement builds in a chain reaction and acts as an amplifier, allowing the cochlea to hear even distant sounds," he said.

Listening to ears with a microphone, Professor Kemp found that when the outer hair cells react to an incoming sound, some of the amplified

noise spills back out of the ear.

The new test uses a plug to broadcast a series of clicks at different frequencies.

"A laptop computer measures and analyses the noise that spills out of the ear and presents the information as a graph showing how well babies hear at different frequencies," he said.

The new system has proved more accurate than previous tests and is being introduced in NHS hospitals.

A spokesperson for the

National Deaf Children's Society said: "The early detection of hearing impairment is vital as it lessens the impact of the condition on a child's development."

New cancer gene found

Scientists have found a gene that could play an important role in the development of different kinds of cancer, includ-

ing tumours of the lung, breast, bone, skin and brain.

The gene, discovered by researchers at the University of Utah, America, is thought to suppress the growth of tumours. When mutations occur, the gene no longer functions as it should, leading to the uncontrolled growth of cells.

Scientists believe the discovery could lead to the creation of drugs which stop genetic defects that cause tumours. Researcher Alexander Kamb said: "We hope the discovery will lead to new treatments."

The Cancer Research Campaign said: "This is important work, but a new treatment is still a long way off."

Earlier help for children

Research psychologists have developed a new test which can reveal whether a child has dyslexia and needs special help.

There are two million dyslexic people in Britain. Many are not diagnosed until they reach the age of nine.

The new test, developed by Dr Angela Fawcett, Dr Paul Dean and Dr Rod Nicholson at Sheffield University, makes early diagnosis possible. The technique was developed after American research showed that dyslexic children have problems with their balance, memory, speed of reactions and in distinguishing between sounds.

So the new test includes balancing, word rhyming, pressing a button on hearing a tone and naming objects pictured on cards. The results are recorded on a computer, which calculates the risk of dyslexia. The 30-minute test can be given by a school nurse or teacher.

Dr Nicholson said: "If you identify children early on and give them six months concentrated help, they can catch up."

Screen test warning

A screening test used to detect whether mothers have conditions such as Down's syndrome and cystic fibrosis can cause missing limbs in babies, doctors warned last month.

Fears over the safety of chorionic villus sampling (CVS), which involves taking cells from the placenta at an early state of pregnancy, were first raised in 1991.

Dr Helen Firth of the Oxford Regional Genetics Service identified a cluster of babies born with missing limbs to 289 women given the test.

According to a report in *The Lancet*, Dr Firth has now analysed all reports of limb defects after CVS, published up to December 1992, and found 79 cases.

Researchers think CVS may cause missing limbs in babies by disrupting the blood flow to foetal cells.

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IN BRIEF

Flying high

Nine disabled men and women will spend six weeks in the American city of Atlanta this summer learning to fly, thanks to the International Air Tattoo (IAT) Flying Scholarships for Disabled People.

The IAT was set up in 1983 in memory of World War II flying ace Sir Douglas Bader. Since the scheme started, 95 disabled people have learnt to fly and the Disabled Fliers (Delta Foxtrot) Club has been formed. King Hussein of Jordan is one of the scheme's sponsors.

Application forms from Wing Commander John Patterson, tel: (0285) 713300.

Benefit directory

The Benefits Agency (BA) National Fax and Textphone Directory is now available.

It lists numbers for the Agency's offices around the country and can be obtained free from local BA offices.

The Benefits Enquiry Line has changed its opening times. The free, confidential telephone advice line for people with disabilities, carers and representatives, offers general advice and information on benefits and disability organisations.

The line is now open from 8.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

Benefits Enquiry Line, tel: (0800) 882200, textphone: (0800) 243355.

Fight for your rights

The Spastics Society has organised a series of meetings around the country to give disabled people and carers the chance to join forces in calling for civil rights.

Meetings are planned in Bristol, Calderdale, Cardiff, Keighley, Doncaster, Exeter, Hastings, London, the Midlands, North Wales, Rotherham, Stockport, St Austell, Southampton, and Sunderland (see page 30 for dates and venues).

For details contact, Jackie Glatzer, tel: 071-636 5020.

Corrections

From DN's May issue:

The report, *Secondary Safety of Vehicle Adaptations for Disabled Drivers*, commissioned by the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (tel: 071-935 2460), was written after research by Dr Peter Gloyns and Dr Stephen Rattenberg.

The Sport for All event on 11 June at Guildford, Surrey, is being organised by representatives from PHAB, the British Sports Association for the Disabled and other centres working for integration.



Fighting back: Maria Green gets to grips with an instructor at a Metropolitan Police self defence training course for disabled people in Feltham, Middlesex. Tel: 081-577 4111.

Landmark legal victory

A blind man who claims he became a virtual prisoner in his own home because he was denied attendance allowance celebrated a landmark legal victory last month.

Eric Mallinson, 46, from Manchester, who needs a guide to go anywhere unfamiliar, won his nine-year battle for the right to be considered for the care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Five Law Lords voted by three to two to allow an appeal by Mr Mallinson against last year's Appeal Court ruling that blind people were not entitled to such payments. The decision

means that a visually impaired person who has difficulties which require "frequent attention throughout the day in connection with his bodily functions", including walking in unfamiliar surroundings, may be eligible for benefit.

Mr Mallinson said: "I have been a virtual prisoner in my home, only able to go to places I know, such as the post office."

Andy Barrick of the Royal National Institute for Blind People said: "We are pleased by the result and hope that this judgement will enable more blind people to successfully claim for DLA."

Older patients are 'denied' treatment

Older patients are being denied NHS treatment because of their age, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) said last month.

RCP president Leslie Turnberg said: "It is a worry to many of us that although it may not be overt and defined, there is a pattern of discrimination against elderly people on the basis of age."

He was speaking at the launch of a RCP report, which recommended that acutely ill patients be admitted without delay, regardless of age. It was published just three weeks after the charity Age Concern revealed two pensioners had been denied treatment because they were too old (DN, May).

Professor Turnberg said units

were setting age limits for treatment and warned of "a tendency that permeates the service, which suggests that older people, perhaps, should be treated in a less fortunate way than younger people".

He said a 1991 study had shown that one in five coronary care units had an upper age limit, usually 70, for admission, and 40 per cent had an upper age limit for drugs that stop blood clots.

Health Minister John Bowis said: "It is the duty of all health authorities to ensure people of all ages have access to acute care."

Ensuring Equity and Equality of Care for Elderly People, £9, RCP, tel: 071-935 1174.

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Hard up families get a raw deal

Society is failing up to 200,000 families struggling to bring up disabled children, according to a new report by NCH Action for Children.

It says most families feel that support services do not meet their children's needs.

The charity questioned more than 100 families nationwide. Four out of five found that their children's disabilities led to extra costs - such as special equipment, clothes and heating - which were not covered by benefits.

Nearly two-thirds were not managing on the money they received and were living on savings.

Many reported that to "win" in the competition for scarce resources, families had to either be at crisis point or be articulate and know how to "work the system".

One parent said: "It is one long battle for things. Why do you have to be at the end of your tether before any help is forthcoming?"

Another problem was discrimination. One 12-year-old said she could not go to the local cinema because the manager said her wheelchair was a fire hazard.

The charity's chief executive Tom White said: "These families are doing a remarkably good job with very little support. We are calling on the Government to encourage councils to consult families about their needs and increase the support services they provide."

Unequal Opportunities: Children with Disabilities Speak Out, £10, Information Office, NCH Action for Children, tel: 071-226 2033.



Diane Baldwin, from Alfreton, Derbyshire, tries out a new workstation specially designed for her by art and design students at Nottingham Trent University. The curved desk is easy to move round, there is extra room for her legs and a special lever system allows her to get files from the top shelf without reaching up. Tel: (0602) 418418

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

Minister rules out euthanasia

The Government has ruled out the legalisation of euthanasia.

Health Minister Brian Mawhinney is backing a report by the Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics (DN, March) which said mercy killing would put pressure on elderly and vulnerable people to request it.

Dr Mawhinney said last month: "The Government shares the committee's opinion that euthanasia is unacceptable and must not be legalised. To permit it, even with safeguards, would in my view be deeply worrying to many people, especially those who are ill, elderly or disabled."

The announcement came just a fortnight after Ian

Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics and head of the law school at King's College, London, called on courts to legalise euthanasia.

Speaking at the Royal Society in London, Professor Kennedy said it was wrong that patients whose pain could not be eased by drugs "must suffer until the proper legal courtesies have

been observed and the final dose can bring the intended death. It is hard to argue that such a law protects the patient."

Richard Wood, director of the British Council of Disabled People, said: "I back the Government because there is a danger that some people would be persuaded to have their life terminated."

Welsh inspectors plugged

Hotel inspectors will be blindfolded and their ears plugged when they take part in a pioneering programme to encourage hoteliers in Wales to provide facilities for visitors with sight and hearing impairments.

The Wales Tourist Board

hopes the new programme will enable its inspectors to experience first hand the various difficulties faced by visually impaired and deaf people, and accurately assess whether hotel accommodation and facilities meet their needs.



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Wife sues husband for insurance

Jean Ginder sued her husband Martyn in the High Court in April to enable her to claim damages from his household insurance after an accident at home broke her back.

She claimed her husband was negligent for not mending a storeroom window, which led to the accident.

The judge partly agreed, and ruled that Mr Ginder was two-thirds liable.

Compensation has yet to be assessed, but is likely to be around £500,000.

Mrs Ginder was able to claim against her husband's Norwich Union (NU) household insurance policy because she was not held to be a policyholder. This loophole was spotted by the couple's solicitor.

NU said that the policy was changed in 1992 and no longer offered this type of cover, but

there could still be people who could make a claim.

People can make claims of this nature up to three years after an accident, and this time limit does not begin for children until they reach 18.

Mrs Ginder said bringing the court case was the only way of getting the insurance money, "but we have a very strong marriage. This case certainly has not harmed us."

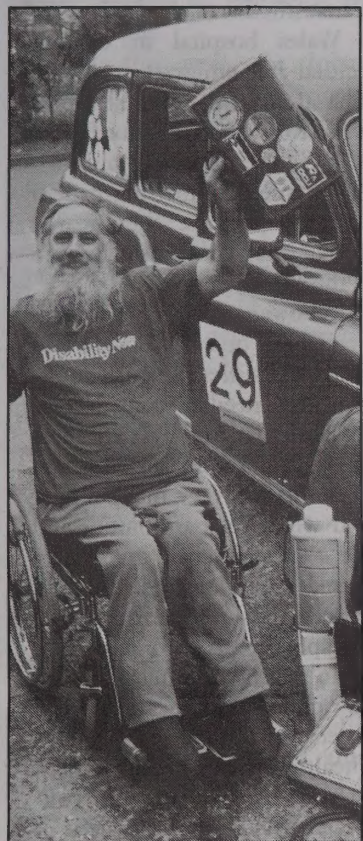


Mary Curran's love of art won her a trip to Amsterdam last month with husband Harry after she entered the BT North East Museum & Gallery Awards.

In one category, people were asked to nominate their favourite museum or art gallery. She nominated the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle as the best place for people with disabilities.

Next month Mary, from Gosforth, tells *DN* about her trip to see Amsterdam's art treasures.

Russian trip



Intrepid traveller Geoff Smith (*above*) has a driving ambition to win Russia's Rally Nadezhda, which takes place this month.

Geoff, from Aylesbury, will be competing in a converted black cab against some of Europe's best disabled motorists.

After the rally, Geoff will return to Britain through Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland and tell all to *DN*.

"My next aim will be to drive overland to New York," said Geoff, who has already driven from Paris to Siberia.

Pioneer guide to conferences

The first national guide to facilities for disabled people at conference venues has been published by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR).

It has detailed information on the accessibility and facilities of almost 300 venues, including conference centres, hotels, academic and local authority premises and training centres.

Conference Centres: an Access Guide on Facilities for Disabled People, £6, RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8AF, tel: 071-250 3222.

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IN BRIEF

Surveying services

Three Romanian social work students spent April working in Scotland to learn about social service provision in Britain.

One of the students, Florin Moisa, was placed with the Scottish Council for Spastics at its Upper Springland day, residential and respite centre.

Mr Moisa was able to see how a voluntary organisation operates for the first time. "Romania was denied access to up-to-date information, knowledge and practices during Ceausescu's regime," he said.

"In my country, disabled people are not able to take control of their lives because of the restrictions on their environment. But here many disabled people are able to live independently and can use the centre as a stepping stone into the community. This must be the long term goal for Romania."

Access to Europe

A Chester architectural and building services consultancy, MRM Partnership, has teamed up with Cheshire County Council and won an £80,000 European Community (EC) grant to launch the Access Europe project.

The project's aim is to get EC countries to work together on tackling access problems and improving facilities for disabled people and to learn from each other's successes and failures.

Teams from Denmark, Italy and Greece have also joined the project.

Chinese exchange

Social services staff from Shanghai, China, visited the London borough of Camden in April to exchange ideas and find out how the local authority meets the needs of elderly and disabled people.

Camden's social services director Simon White told the four professionals from the Shanghai Municipal Authority how Camden provides or purchases its services.

He also explained how assessments are used to establish the needs of disabled and elderly people.



New beginnings: Elderly and disabled people help each other into a community centre being used as a polling station in Katlehong, east of Johannesburg, on 26 April. POPPERFOTO/REUTER

Finding hope in Soweto

The head of Brent Council's disability unit visited South Africa in February, just weeks before black people flocked to vote for the first time in the country's historic elections.

Brenda Robbins met members of Disabled People South Africa and spoke at a rally held by the Transvaal Association for the Physically Disabled (TADP) during her three-week stay.

"There was a great feeling of excitement and optimism across the country," she said. "I found that disabled people are very hopeful about the future. They are keen to learn and pick up ideas from the international disability movement."

Ms Robbins, who told the rally about Brent Council's work for disabled people and the London Dial-a-Ride service, went to South Africa as a tourist. But the links she forged with TADP enabled her to visit places most holiday makers never see.

"TADP have worked in the black townships for years, so they were able to take me into Soweto and Alexandra without a police escort to meet disabled people. I was appalled by the poverty I saw. Many live in tiny, corrugated iron shacks. They get no health care and have no equipment unless friends or relatives club together and buy a wheelchair.

"TADP helps out, but there are only so many wheelchairs they can provide as they have limited resources. This means there are many black disabled people who never even go outdoors."

Ms Robbins took home many powerful memories of her time in South Africa, but one of the strongest was of a man in Soweto who had been shot 16 times by gunmen.

"Amazingly he had survived, but the wounds left him disabled. He had been given a wheelchair by TADP, but his home was so tiny he could barely get through the door."

TADP is doing a lot to help disabled people find work. It has set up several workshops

run by disabled people.

Ms Robbins visited one in Soweto, called the Self Help Association for Paraplegics, which is a collective that makes clothes, kitchen utensils, and grows vegetables. "I was very impressed," she said. "It is run by 40 disabled people and funded by local businesses."

Ms Robbins arrived back in Brent a couple of weeks before the election but has kept in contact with TADP.

"These are exciting times for disabled South Africans. They want the chance to live independently. This can only happen if they get the health care and equipment they need. Having gone there, I am confident this can happen."

GP wins Australian appeal

A British doctor has won his fight to work in Australia.

Dr Ian Power, a world expert in pain relief, was turned down by Australian immigration authorities because his daughter has cystic fibrosis.

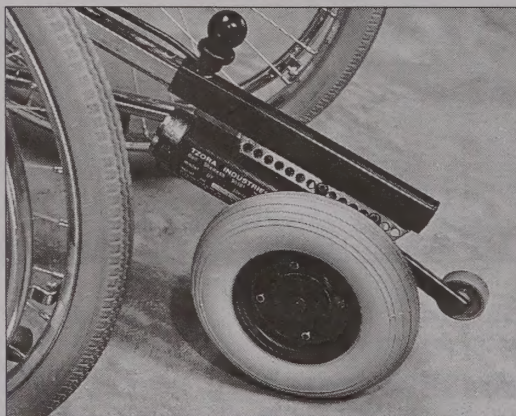
He appealed immediately and was told in May that his visa will be accepted after all.

Dr Power, a senior lecturer in anaesthetics at the University of Wales hospital in Cardiff, decided to emigrate to Australia after being offered a post at the Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney. But the authorities denied him permanent residency because they feared his daughter could be a burden on the health service.

Dr Power said: "My wife and I were both upset. We were told Eilidh was suffering from an illness that needed considerable care and that care was in short supply. But Eilidh is not a burden - she is a very independent child who needs antibiotics and food supplements. We are pleased they saw sense and changed their minds."

A spokesperson for the Australian High Commission said the child's application was turned down because "We have a health scheme with limited resources and we have to consider that against the benefit of allowing a family to emigrate to Australia."

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Tax and welfare rights expert Paul Lewis explains how to find out

Are you paying too much tax?

There has never been a more profitable time to check your tax and make sure you are not paying too much.

The Government has admitted taking about £500 million too much tax off around nine million people, and it will only give it back if you ask for it.

There are millions of married couples who are paying too much tax between them because they don't arrange their savings to minimise the tax they pay.

And, this year, the Inland Revenue (IR) looks likely to get at least one in ten tax codes wrong because of the complexities of the new tax regime introduced in April.

So you should check your tax, particularly if

- * you have money in a building society or bank deposit account
- * you were born before 6 April 1930
- * you are married
- * you have a job or a pension from a job
- * you pay maintenance
- * your income has changed a lot recently or
- * you think you pay too much.

Savings possibilities

Since April 1991, interest on saving in a bank or building society have been taxed automatically at the basic rate of 25 per cent. If your income is low and you do not pay tax, you can recover the tax that has been deducted. And you may be able to arrange that in future your interest is paid gross.

Interest will be credited to your bank or building society at least once a year, appearing on your bank or building society statement or pass book. The interest is credited gross, but immediately after it there may be a debit item for tax on it. This will be equal to 25 per cent of the interest credited. If tax has been deducted at 25 per cent, ask yourself whether you should pay tax on it at all. If the answer is yes, should it be paid at only 20 per cent?

It is quite easy to see if you should pay tax at all (though harder to work out how much that tax should be). First, add up your taxable income. Most income is taxable, but most disability benefits are tax-free (see Table 1).

Next, add up your tax allowances. Each year everyone is allowed to have a certain amount of income before tax has to be paid.

There are two sorts of allowances - full and restricted. If you do have to pay tax, the restricted tax allowances are less valuable than the full ones.

Everyone gets the personal allowance. A married couple gets an extra allowance which is normally allowed to the husband, though the wife can have

some or all of it if she asks in time or if her husband cannot make full use of it.

People registered as blind (or the equivalent in Scotland or Northern Ireland) get an extra blind person's allowance. (For tax allowances, see Table 2.)

Add up the tax allowances that apply to you. If your income is the same or less than your tax allowances, then you should not be paying tax.

If your income is less than £3,000 above your full tax allowances (ignoring any restricted tax allowance), then you should be paying tax on it at 20 per cent not 25 per cent. You may be able to reclaim the extra tax deducted from your bank or building society interest.

deducted from your bank or building society. Or you can reclaim at the end of the year.

You may be owed tax back to 1991/2. Get a reclaim form by filling in another form, R95, obtainable from your tax office.

Married couples: rearrange

If you are married, there is scope to rearrange your finances to minimise your tax.

If one of you has enough income to pay income tax and the other does not, it will save you tax as a couple if savings are put into the name of the person who does not pay tax. The interest can then be paid gross without a tax deduction.

If you have a joint account, the Inland Revenue will assume

your tax allowance with the last digit knocked off. But if you get a taxable security benefit, such as retirement pension, or, from next April, incapacity benefit, the amount will be deducted from your allowance first.

If you get interest on a bank or building society account and pay tax at the lower 20 per cent rate, you can have an amount added to your tax code to repay the extra 5 per cent tax that is automatically deducted from your interest. It is called investment income relief, and you may have to ask for it.

The most difficult part of the tax code is a deduction which is applied to anyone who gets a restricted tax allowance, such as the married couple's allowance or widow's bereavement allowance.

These restricted allowances are included in the calculation of your tax code, and that means the code under-estimates your tax. But if they were ignored in calculating the tax code, it would over-estimate your tax. So a deduction is applied to the code, which tries to balance these two conflicting forces and make the deduction correct.

This deduction will only be right if the IR correctly estimates your income in 1994/5. So it is very important to get your tax checked at the end of 1994/5 if you have a tax code.

Even if you don't think it is wrong, get your tax checked then. If you do think it is wrong, write to the tax office and ask for it to be checked and explained to you.



"I SEE A CHEQUE WITH YOUR NAME ON IT... HERE TAKE ONE OF THESE!"

Two more gainers

Two other groups should pay attention to their tax in 1994/5.

People born before 6 April 1930 should check they are getting the age allowance. A higher age allowance applies to those born before 6 April 1920.

If you pay maintenance under a court order or legally binding agreement, or as assessed by the Child Support Agency, you should have an extra restricted tax allowance of £1,720. If you don't tell the IR, no-one else will!

The charity TaxAid gives free advice to people who cannot afford professional help. Tel: 071-624 3768 9am-11am Mon-Fri.

The IR has clear leaflets on various tax topics, eg A Guide for People with Savings, IR110. For help on claiming back overpaid tax or getting interest paid gross, freephone (0800) 660800. Help the Aged has a free booklet, Check Your Tax by Paul Lewis, tel: 071-253 0253.

Table 2

Tax allowances 1994/95

Full tax allowances

Personal allowance~

Under 65	£3,445
65 to 74	£4,200*
75 or more	£4,370*

Blind person's allowance

£1,200

Restricted tax allowances

Married couple's allowance[‡]

Under 65	£1,720
65 to 74	£2,665*
75 or more	£2,705*

Widow's bereavement allowance¹

£1,720

Additional personal allowance²

£1,720

*These allowances may be reduced to the levels for under 65s if total income in the tax year exceeds £14,200

~ Personal allowance depends on the age of the individual at 5 April 1995

‡ Married couple's allowance depends on the age of the older spouse at 5 April 1995

¹Widow's bereavement allowance is allowed in the year of the husband's death and, normally, the following year.

²Additional personal allowance is for a lone parent bringing up a child.

Table 1

Social security benefits and tax

Not taxable

- Sickness benefit
- Invalidity benefit
- Attendance allowance
- Disability living allowance
- Severe disablement allowance
- Income support (except to unemployed people and strikers)
- Family credit
- Housing benefit
- Council tax benefit
- Child benefit
- Industrial injuries benefit
- War disablement pension
- Disability working allowance

Taxable

- Unemployment benefit
- Widow's benefit
- Retirement pension
- Invalid care allowance
- Statutory sick pay
- Incapacity benefit (new claims from April 1995)

You can register to have the interest paid gross if your taxable income is expected to be less than your allowances in 1994/5. Form R85 is available at your bank or building society.

If you have already paid tax on interest, you will have to ask for a refund. You can do that at any time if the overpaid tax is at least £50, though you will have to get a certificate of tax

that half the interest belongs to each of you and tax accordingly.

If you decide to transfer capital, it has to be given absolutely to the other person. The easiest way is to close the account and re-open it in the other person's name, but take care to give the required notice to avoid any interest penalties.

You can transfer shares using a standard stock transfer form from a legal stationers. There should be no charge. To transfer unit trusts, seek the advice of the trust organisation. If you have jointly owned National Savings products, you can transfer ownership from joint to sole using the appropriate form from the Department of National Savings.

Tax codes can be wrong

If you have a paid job or a pension from a previous job, you will probably have a tax code. This tells your employer how much tax to deduct each week or month from your pay or pension. It is a way of collecting tax and, if it is wrong, you can get any over or under paid tax sorted out at the end of the tax year.

Some city accountants have found that as many as four out of ten tax codes are wrong this year and the IR has admitted that as many as one in ten do turn out to be wrong.

Your tax code is basically

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Count us in, but don't talk politics

(3) Nasa Begum believes community care offers great opportunities to black disabled people

Britain has reached a turning point in how it treats black disabled people.

Community care legislation could provide a framework for changing the way services are designed and delivered to us. New ideas are rife.

On the other hand, the arguing about "political correctness" and equal opportunities could push the needs of black disabled people out of sight. Caught up in the flavour of the month - race and disability rhetoric - black disabled people run the risk of being dropped later with nothing to show in terms of practical support.

So this is a time to take stock of what has been learnt from our struggle so far, and to seize the opportunities that community care holds out.

Where we have come from

In the past, services have generally ignored the needs of black disabled people, assuming we were the same as other disabled people. When our needs were acknowledged, it could be token, superficial - the Caribbean evening, for example.

The result was that we have not had access to the money and support we needed to live in the community.

The Government's White Paper, *Caring for People* (1989),

the basis for community care reforms, acknowledged that black disabled people may need particular types of support. "Minority communities may have different concepts of community care and it is important that services are sensitive to these variations. Good community care will take account of the circumstances of minority communities."

The National Health and Community Care Act (1990) said that consideration must be given to race, religion, culture and language. It was a starting point for addressing our needs.

Family ties

A commonly held assumption about black disabled people is that we prefer to stay with our families, so the whole idea of community care does not suit us.

But, as the White paper said, community care is about "providing the right amount of care and support to help people achieve maximum possible independence and give people a greater individual say in how they live their lives and the services they need to help them do so".

Black disabled people are no different from anyone else: we want choice and independence too. Policy makers and managers must recognise this and help us to achieve it.

There is nothing mysterious or unique about our needs. Food, shelter, money, education, employment, support services and so on are vital

forces black disabled people back on families or friends for support.

It is dangerous to presume that black disabled people pre-

important, which leave the client even worse off.

Value for money

The way to make services needs-led and good value for money is to accept that racism and disablism are part of black disabled people's experience and work to reverse this by involving us at every stage.

Recruiting black and bi-lingual workers will help prevent inappropriate or insensitive behaviour.

But black workers will not necessarily identify with a black disabled person's experience. Without training and commitment, they will hold the same negative and paternalistic ideas about service delivery as some white, non-disabled people.

Also, black workers rarely decide policy or procedure and so cannot prevent black disabled people from being excluded. For example, if we must complete a self-assessment form, many of us may be excluded because of language or lack of information about what we are entitled to.

Again, if black workers do not have care management responsibility, it may be difficult for them to design and negotiate a care package that challenges racism and empowers a black disabled person, for example, by recruiting an advocate from a black disability organisation, not a white person.

It is also essential that white workers take responsibility for challenging racism and respond more effectively to the needs of black disabled people. Personal assistance for a young woman, for example, might need to include a black hairdresser.

None of this will work if the problems of the past are not tackled. Other black disabled people must be involved, through the use of advocacy, training, or delegating the job to organisations of black and/or disabled people.

Community care offers the chance to end the marginalisation and exclusion of black disabled people. We must seize it.

We must not let our futures be decided by the fickle winds of the equal opportunities debate.

This article is an edited version of a paper Nasa Begum wrote for Reflections, Views of Black Disabled People On Their Lives And Community Care, published in March by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, London WC1H 8AD, tel: 071-278 2455. £12 (inc p&sp)

Nasa Begum works part-time at the Race Equality Unit, National Institute of Social Work, and at the King's Fund Centre.



Nasa Begum (left) with Millee Hill, another contributor

AMANDA KNAPP

ingredients. But the way those needs are met must take account of racism and our religious, cultural and linguistic requirements. Often, for example, a shortage of black home helps and personal assistants

fer to remain with their families. Some may, but for others the decision can be more complicated: living in a society where racism is a daily reality and support limited means the network of family and friends becomes vital.

Independent living

A growing number of black disabled people are striving towards independent living. How we put it into practice may differ in different communities, but it is crucial that we should have the right to exert control over our lives in our own way.

New methods of helping us, sensitive to our needs, must be developed.

Care management, a cornerstone of community care reform, which tries to provide needs-led services and value for money, offers a real possibility.

Services are organised by individual workers or a team, who have their own budget and can take responsibility for assessing a disabled person's needs and co-ordinating the services.

Black disabled people have often had problems securing services, so having a named person responsible for planning, co-ordinating and making things happen is appealing. However, success will depend on who is the care manager and how the needs of the disabled person are defined.

Through bitter experience, black disabled people know that professionals often make assumptions about what is

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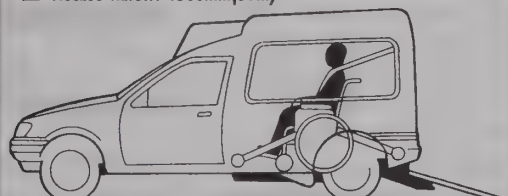
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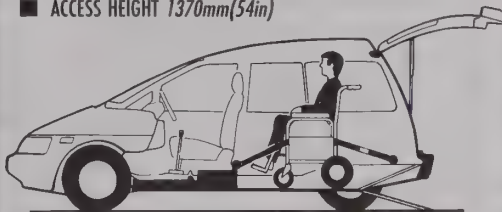
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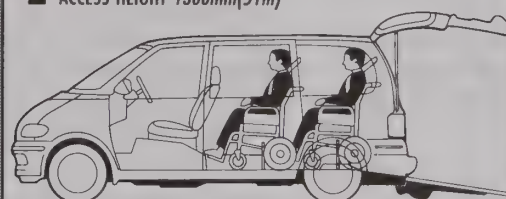
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Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Community care ...

We, the members of Jane Campbell's "local day centre in Kingston", totally agree with her saying how vital it is for disabled people to have choice and a say in the way services are delivered ("Let's get it right together", *DN*, April). But we do not agree with the suggestion that we would all want the centre closed and be given our share of the budget to create our "own independence, buy a car, adapt our house, use personal assistance".

Some of us already have personal assistants, either through Kingston's independent living scheme, or the Independent Living Fund, and we *choose* to go to the centre, where we are able to make choices about activities, staff, and how the money is spent.

We are, in fact, working with the council towards having the centre managed independently, though this will take some time.

We have a joint management board (I am the vice-chair) made up of representatives from our members' committee, the local disability organisation, a volunteer and managers from the social services department. At least 60 per cent of the board must

be disabled. In fact, members far out number staff from social services.

In recent years, we have seen a change in the way the centre is run. Some major building work has taken place and we have been involved from the beginning, able to influence what has been done.

Some of us have been on training courses so that we can work with the staff on a more equal basis. You cannot do some of the work unless you have had the training.

We don't feel that we are second-class citizens because we go to a day centre - we don't see it as a dependency creating service. In fact, it is quite the opposite.

I myself have learned new skills and am contributing rather than taking. Many other members feel the same. We also benefit from a good social life. We think Kingston is "getting it right together".

Margaret Earley
Chair, Members' Committee
Crescent Resource Centre
New Malden, Surrey

... differences ...

Jane Campbell is so right to ask for a parcel of services for elderly and disabled people. As she says, community care is designed and delivered by

people often ignorant of their wants and needs.

Take my 92-year-old, registered blind, very confused, frail mother. As a carer, I find support services for her are scanty, over-long in the pipeline stage and too scattered. What is needed is a package deal, administered by one, central body. This would assess mental and physical health and also organise day centre care, washing, nail clipping, etc.

At present, the sorely harassed carer is given too little information and left alone to battle for the aged parent or disabled child when time and energy are both in short supply.

It seems a game, where professional givers are ranged against the desperate carer. Only those who shout the loudest and longest are ever rewarded with a little help. This will have to change if there is any justice.

Bel Bailey
Stevenage, Herts

... of opinion

Hopefully Jane Campbell's article will open up the debate regarding decisions about where money is being spent and who is making those decisions. It is important that people who are feeling threatened by Jane's ideas do not use their anger to prevent the debate continuing.

Many of us, including Jane, know exactly what is wrong with current services.

However, the important point is that we also have the answers regarding replacing those services with ones which provide empowerment, choice, dignity and control in the lives of disabled people.

Our frustration is that because we are identified only as disabled people and not as "professionals" with adequate training and experience, we are not listened to.

Ann Macfarlane
Linda Laurie
Surbiton, Surrey

Not so spry

I was concerned to read the comments from Chris Davies on *If You See God, Tell Him* (*DN*, January).

Mr Davies made the assumption that the character in this tv programme, Spry, was eccentric and that his disability was incidental.

An alternative interpretation is that Spry's behaviour was secondary to the accidents he had suffered (as a result of brain damage).

Certainly, with such injuries, it is possible for people to exhibit very strange behaviours, which could be interpreted as eccentric, and if this assumption is made by the contributors to your publication, then how can we begin to hope that the public will become more aware and open-minded?

Sarah H Bernard MRCPsych
Beckenham, Kent

Car safety seminar

I read with interest your report of the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA) seminar, which presented their findings on the safety of vehicle adaptations for disabled drivers if there was a crash (*DN*, May).

Whilst I do not disagree with the comments about the need to keep down the cost of modifications, and the disabled drivers' right to choose his own modifications and to

accept certain risks in driving, I do feel very strongly that people should be in possession of the facts in order to make informed decisions.

Several of us participating in the seminar belong to the UK Forum of Mobility Centres.

The main points of the day for us were that we gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from the two vehicle safety consultants, who spent the morning telling us how vehicles were built in relation to frontal, side and rear impacts. In the afternoon, they asked us to reflect on the implications of adding modifications should the vehicle be involved in impacts.

Many of their suggestions did not involve additional cost, merely knowledge to choose appropriate controls, eg a rim-clamped steering aid rather than a diagonally-mounted bar when the steering wheel has an air-bag. Another good example was the mounting of nuts and bolts in hand controls, so that the sharpest protrusions were placed as far away from the driver as possible, rather than directly facing the knees.

I believe the driving assessment centres have a role in helping disabled drivers to minimise the risk of additional injury on impact without increasing capital cost, bearing in mind the cost implications and obvious compromise.

Morigue Cornwell
Director
Banstead Mobility Centre
Carshalton, Surrey

sic

No time to breathe

Orange badge user Irene Jackson of Chigwell, Essex had a nasty brush with a traffic warden recently, according to *The Sun*. She had an asthma attack, pulled over into a taxi rank so as to use her inhaler, and got a £30 parking ticket.

"I knew I shouldn't have stopped there, but at least the warden could have shown some compassion", she said.

Leaves one breathless, doesn't it?

Night club ADA

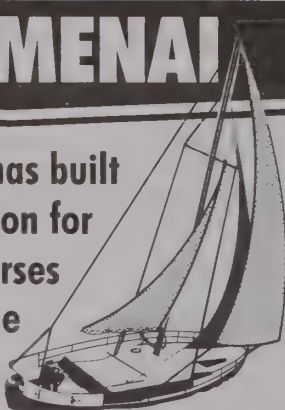
A night club in Los Angeles has been told by city officials to shut its main attraction, a shower area where nude dancers perform for the "pleasure" of male customers. Why? Were officials worried that the sight of all that wet, naked, steaming flesh would turn ordinary family men into slaving monsters?

Not a bit of it. The shower area wasn't wheelchair accessible and the club was said to be discriminating against wheelchair users wanting to work as nude dancers.

Maybe not quite what President Bush had in mind when he signed the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

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DN 6/94

DN goes to Northern Ireland

Deafblind score a first

Work has begun on a new sheltered housing and training scheme for deafblind people in Carrickfergus. It is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland.

The two bungalows and a day centre, due to open next year, will be run by Sense Northern Ireland - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association - and built by the Habinteg housing association.

Habinteg have received £240,000 from the Government's Sheltered Housing Fund but Sense must raise another £300,000 to pay for the project. An appeal has been launched.

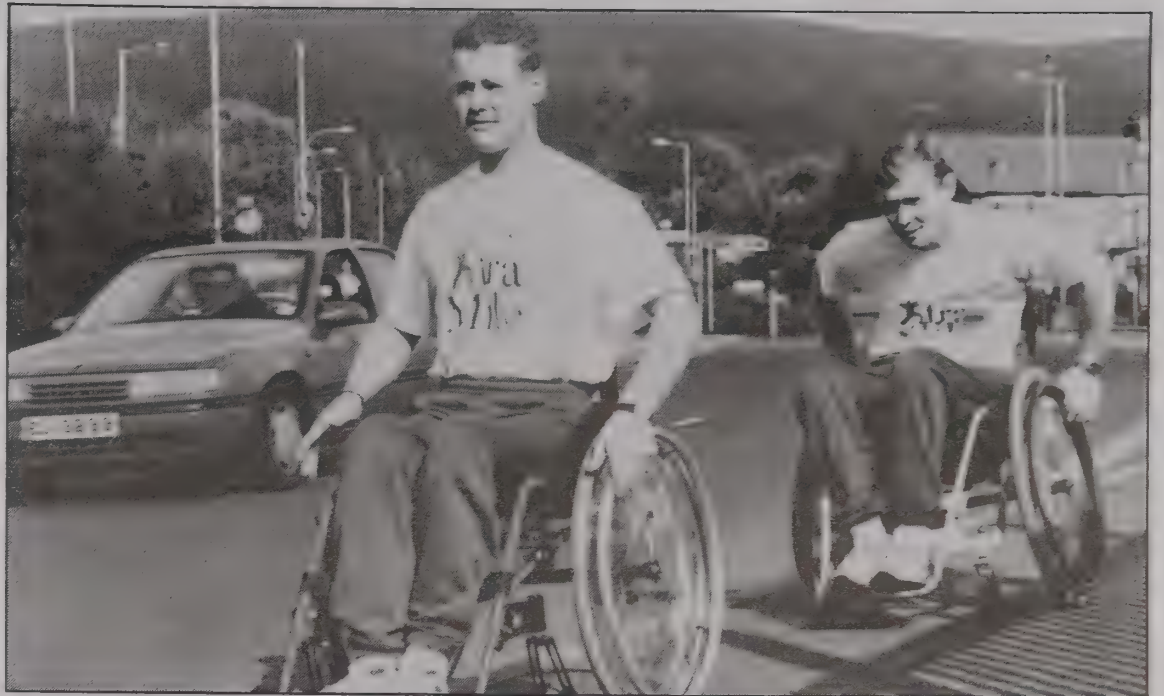
The bungalows will be split into flats and cater for up to ten deafblind young adults, who have both visual and hearing impairments and are sometimes physically disabled as well. At the moment they are in long stay hospitals or away

from their families in England.

The day centre will have training facilities, office equipment and a soft play area. About 30 staff will give residents and other deafblind people therapy, training in daily living skills and possibly vocational training.

Sense's regional services manager Margaret Dodds said: "The project is the culmination of a lot of hard work and a milestone in the charity's development in Northern Ireland. It is needed to bring the Province in line with other parts of the UK and Europe. Our aim is to give these people a better quality of life and more independence."

Donations to Jeremy Woods, Sense Northern Ireland, Purdysburn Complex, Saintfield Road, Belfast, tel: (0232) 705858.



Only 475 more miles to go: John Cairns (left) and Andy McIlmurray at the start of their marathon push for "money and justice"

VALERIE CATTERSON

Big push for civil rights

Four wheelchair athletes began a 476-mile marathon on 9 May, taking in more than 50 towns and lasting 16 days.

The mega marathon aims to increase public awareness about the various forms of discrimination facing Northern Ireland's 200,000 disabled people, and raise £150,000 for services for disabled people.

It has been dubbed "the big push for money and justice" in some of the extensive media coverage the event has received.

Six of the Province's prominent businesses - Coca Cola, Desmonds, Mars, Pepsi, Agnews Commercial and KR Graphics - and Queen's University Physical Education Centre are sponsoring the event and have become founder members of the Xtra Mile Club, through which any individual, organisation or business can sponsor part of the route.

BT Northern Ireland, the retailers Wellworths and BP Oil UK have paid for the logistical and administrative costs, ensuring

that all the money raised will directly benefit disabled people.

The marathon's organiser Douglas King said: "We believe this event will tap into the enormous pool of goodwill that exists here towards people with disabilities."

"This is not just another charity fundraiser, this is an ongoing battle to secure dignity and respect which people with disabilities should have as an integral part of their citizenship rights."

Saturday sports club

Disabled children in Belfast will soon be able to join a Saturday morning sports club.

It will be based at Fleming Fulton School and meet once a month. Coaches will teach members how to take part in a wide range of sports, including archery, boccia and wheelchair basketball.

The club will meet on an open day on 11 June when any-

one can go along to try out the school's sports facilities.

Club co-ordinator Roger Grant said: "We want to give local disabled children the chance to try out a wide range of sports. It will be their club and they will be able to suggest what kind activities they want to have a go at."

Roger Grant, tel: (0232) 613877.

Baroness praises care partnership

A pioneering partnership that gives information, advice and respite care to Belfast carers was praised by Health Minister Baroness Denton last month.

She was speaking at an event held in Belfast Castle to celebrate 18 months of partnership between the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust for Carers, North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust, and local voluntary groups.

Eight projects for carers have been jointly funded by the partnership. These include home help for carers of people with dementia, respite care for parents of children with learning difficulties, information for carers and training for carers of people with a mental illness.

Baroness Denton said: "This is a very important initiative, and I am very impressed by the variety of the schemes."

25 FAMILY TICKETS WORTH £12.50 EACH TO GIVE AWAY

DN has 25 family tickets for Carrickfergus Castle and the thrilling Knight Ride to give away to the first 25 readers to introduce a new paying subscriber to DN (Stand 6) at the Mobility Roadshow, 17-18 June, King's Hall Complex, Belfast. Tickets are valid for one year.

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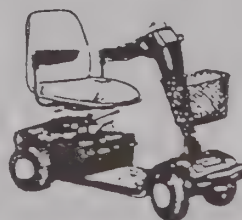
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Poor relation in the pecking order

When you mention the word "politics" in Northern Ireland you can generate a whole host of responses, but very rarely is the word linked to disability.

Within the province the equality agenda is fairly clear: discrimination on the grounds of perceived religion or political affiliation has the highest priority, and gender discrimination ranks second. There is, as yet, no race law in N Ireland and people with disabilities have no access to anti-discrimination legislation.

Yet N Ireland has the highest incidence of disability in the UK: 17.4 per cent of the adult population. It also has the high-



est incidences of social and economic deprivation, with more people in receipt of social security benefits than any comparable area of the country. We have poor housing, we live on the margins, on the social and economic fringes of Europe.

So where does the disability movement rank in relation to this depressing scenario? In all honesty, it ranks very poorly.

Although there are a number of disabled activists in N Ireland, they are only beginning to come together to identify the issues we have in common, rather than to stress the things which keep us apart.

Disability organisations in N

Monica Wilson (*below*) is chief executive of Disability Action, a Northern Ireland umbrella group of over 160 disability organisations. She explains why the disability movement in the Province has a long way to go in the fight for equal rights for disabled people



Ireland have organised along traditional lines, around a medical condition, and people have devoted their energies to provide support and services for these groups. The tradition of voluntary work is strong.

A small number of organisations of disabled people, such as the N Ireland Polio Fellowship and the Disabled Drivers' Association, operate here, but most are still organisations for disabled people.

There are many reasons for

the slower development of the disability movement in N Ireland, such as the lack of local government - the so-called "democratic deficit" - and Parliamentary procedures, which mean that legislation may take longer to process. The Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act, for example, did not reach Northern Ireland until 1978, eight years after it was passed in England and Wales.

The development of organisations of disabled people is beginning. Through Disability Action's Access Committee, 18 local access groups have been established. Local disabled people work with planners and providers to ensure that the local physical environment becomes barrier-free.

These groups work together in a Forum, from which representatives are appointed to the Access Committee, which deals with strategic issues. Our Transport Advisory Committee has identified a cross-disability group to advise local transport companies on design criteria and customer care.

Encouraging empowerment

Slow, steady progress can be helpful: it can enable the real groundwork to be done which encourages real empowerment.

If you have a situation where disabled individuals have never been asked to give their opinion about the smallest thing, then it is too simple to tack a "user" on to an existing structure and expect informed and constructive criticism, or to set up groups of disabled people and expect them to perform.

Real involvement of disabled people is a process of inclusion and empowerment. One example of this is in Londonderry,

where our office staff have brought together a group of 20 disabled people. Working with the local BBC radio station, Radio Foyle, the 20 have undertaken a media training programme and elected representatives on to an editorial board which will produce a series of 20-minute magazine programmes on disability.

They will decide the items and their order. They will have real power to influence, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

BBC Ulster is watching with interest and is prepared to replicate the pilot project throughout N Ireland.

Perhaps, as a result of our slow start, we may be able to become truly cross-disability, and as inclusive as possible. In N Ireland we have an opportunity to include all those who wish to participate in the movement of disabled people, regardless of the complexity of their disability.

Certainly, the model used in Southern Ireland is of interest, where a small number of activists came together and, through a series of public meetings, launched the Forum of People with Disabilities. Branches have spread throughout the South, and the organisation's success in campaigning for inclusion is remarkable.

Republic out ahead

The establishment of a Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities, reporting to the Minister for Equality & Law Reform, leads cynics to believe that the people of the Republic will achieve anti-discrimination legislation before we do. This appears more likely as we watch the Government's antics over the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill.

Disability Action would probably be perceived as an organisation for disabled people, but I think it represents real partnership in action.

Disabled people work as professional staff at all levels of the organisation, and a range of services and support is available to disabled individuals. Traditionally, although not a legal requirement, over half of the management committee are people with disabilities.

All our work is based on a charter of personal, social, economic and legal rights which Disability Action demands for disabled people.

A lot of good work has been done to convince the public of disabled peoples' right to equal treatment, but we have a lot more work to do to convince disabled people of that fact.

The most important task of all will be to support a movement of disabled people united and vocal in their demand for equal treatment.

Disability Action address top right

IN BRIEF

Adaptable housing

A booklet, *Adaptable Housing*, published by Disability Action at the end of May, has been designed to help upgrade the design standards of new housing in the Province.

It explains what an adaptable house is - no step at its entrance, wider doors and corridors, low-level light switches, good living space, easy-to-open doors and windows, accessible bathrooms and easy-to-use taps and fittings - and includes some designs.

Adaptable Housing, £5, from Disability Action, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3UR, tel: (0232) 491011. Mark envelope "Adaptable Housing".

Care in Action Campaign

The second in a series of seminars and conferences, Community Care and Older People - Assessing Needs and Meeting Costs, will be held on 21 June by Age Concern Northern Ireland.

The Care in Action Campaign is a response to the anxieties of older people and their carers about community care implementation in the Province. It began with a conference, Mapping the Changes, on 17 April.

For seminar details or a report on the conference, contact Age Concern Northern Ireland, 3 Lower Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NR.

Double-decker design



The Rehabilitation Engineering Centre in Belfast came up with this solution for a mum who needed to get about with both her daughter who has cerebral palsy and a new-born baby: a double-decker design. REC

Giant US ski trip

Ski-Ability a charity founded by staff at Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, to help rehabilitate disabled people through skiing, is planning its second trip to the National Sports Centre for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado.

Between 50 and 100 people will go and pay a subsidised price, although the trip will cost £50,000-£100,000 altogether.

The Centre can teach a wide range of disabled people to ski, including paraplegics, amputees, head injured and visually impaired people.

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Even as I was interviewing Brendan McConville, the latest atrocity in Northern Ireland was on the news - a 76-year-old pensioner murdered watching TV.

It happened just up the road from Brendan McConville. He lives in Dungannon and is the founder of the Buddy Bear Trust which opened and funds the Dungannon Peto Institute, the first conductive education centre in Ireland.

The violence has had its impact on the Trust too, and every death and every bombing makes it that much more difficult to raise the cash needed to run the institute and pay the salaries of the four conductors they have from the Peto Institute in Hungary.

The Buddy Bears have had to curtail their fundraising evenings for fear of being targeted by one or other of the terrorist groups, and the institute only has enough funding for the rest of this term.

But the work goes on, and will continue to go on as long as Mr McConville draws breath. It is a description he would hate, but the word "indomitable" comes quickly to mind when talking with him.

After all, this is the man who has enlisted help from every MP in Northern Ireland - a first if ever there was one - and can number both the Pope and the Reverend Ian Paisley

Buddy Bear Brendan

Brendan McConville founded the Buddy Bear Trust six years ago and ended up opening the first conductive education centre in Ireland, staffed by conductors from Budapest. He spoke to Mike Helby

among his supporters.

Brendan McConville started the Buddy Bears six years ago after being asked to chair a meeting to raise money to send a local child with cerebral palsy to the Peto Institute in Budapest, Hungary.

The group ended up sending over 200 children to Budapest before deciding that it was about time Ireland had its own centre, which, fittingly, given the institute's emphasis on education, is an old primary school.

One day, they hope the institute will be absorbed, and run and paid for, by the Department of Education in the Province. If that happens, Mr McConville plans to turn his energy to starting a network of centres across Ireland.

A former teacher and now an education officer, he has a strong belief in the importance

of education. He sees one of the institute's key roles as making its 12 students strong enough to get the most benefit from what he describes as every child's "magic moment" for learning.

Talking with Mr McConville, it is easy to see that he must have been a good teacher. He has the Irish gift of engaging conversation, and an anecdote for every situation.

Of his motivation, he says: "If you had a child and that child was locked in a room and crying, you would do everything you could to break down that door and you would ask everybody and anybody you could to help."

Aware of the controversy that conductive education can arouse, the Buddy Bears have adopted, he says, a "non-confrontational" stance to any



Brendan "Buddy Bear" McConville in one of the classrooms at the Dungannon Peto Institute

JIM MAGINN

critics. As he points out, there is enough confrontation already in Northern Ireland.

Perhaps Mr McConville is best summed up by another of his anecdotes, this time borrowed from President Roosevelt: "Normal people

adapt to meet the needs of society. Different people attempt to make society change to meet their needs. It is those people that cause change."

With that in mind, I have no doubt that Brendan McConville is very different.



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With unemployment at 13.3 per cent, one of the highest rates in the UK, finding work in Northern Ireland if you are disabled is tough. But it's not all doom and gloom, as *DN* found talking to Fred Williams and Jaqueline Magee

From little acor

Ten years ago, Fred Williams was involved in a traffic accident and received head injuries that still affect his mobility.

He had been a social worker and then the manager of a Youth Training Scheme, but the accident meant a six-year recovery period and a change in career.

Fred now runs ACORN, a sheltered employment scheme in Belfast, which has been going for three years, and has 12 people in jobs.

He hopes to expand soon, get more people into jobs and become an RTO (recognised training organisation), which would make him eligible for central funding from the

Training and Employment Agency of the Northern Ireland Office.

At the moment, funding comes from Making Belfast Work, a Government organisation which was set up to encourage jobs and services in run-down areas of the city.

He uses the network of enterprise parks in the Province

to find jobs for his members. ACORN is based in an enterprise park itself and fits in well with that style of management structure.

He has adopted a holistic approach to getting his disabled people into jobs.

"A lot of our members start off by not wanting to know about the work side because they are scared it will interfere with their benefits. So the idea is to get people to rebuild a life for themselves," he says.

"We start by taking people out horse riding with the Riding for the Disabled Association and then sticking a fish supper into them back at the enterprise park.

Confidence is the key

"Once they have built up some confidence again - and it does take a bit of bottle to get up on the back of a horse, I know, I used to have the whitest knuckles Riding for the Disabled had ever seen - we bring up the subject of work and look at what they might want to do.

"I would not try to pretend to be completely non-directive,



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Irish entre

Eagle-eyed *DN* readers might remember Jaqueline Magee from a news story (*DN*, January '93). She was one of disabled people from the Province who spent two months in the US city of Pittsburgh learning about running your own business.

Eighteen months later she is still in business selling wheelchairs as MR. No mean feat when, even now, with the economy recovering, small businesses are struggling every day. She is also studying business administration and finance at college in her home town of Newry.

"Before going to Pittsburgh I had never thought of starting up some sort of business. A friend, Colin Roberts, suggested selling wheelchairs because there is a lot of dissatisfaction among wheelchair users in Northern Ireland due to a lack of understanding and knowledge.

"Being a wheelchair user myself, I seemed like the perfect business for me. I have since found that a lot of people would rather buy a chair from somebody who understands than from a shop.

"But I was still unsure about the financial side of business planning. I was worried about whether or not I would be able to make enough to live on."

Turning dreams into reality

"So, even though I had a dream, I went to Pittsburgh with some misgivings. By the end of the two-month trip I was convinced that I could put my dreams into reality.

"This was helped by the fact that my placement in the States was in a large medical supply warehouse, dealing with lightweight wheelchairs but all the necessary supplies.

"The trip really gave me an insight into the advantages and disadvantages of running your own business, plus the confidence and courage to give it a go.

S ■ ■ ■

to make sure that the idea of employment comes from inside the man that it works.”

His members have range from car cleaning and working on a paper.

sh (pictured right) has worked for Crystal, a crystal glass manufacturer, for a number last year, and is training to be a glass engraver.

A stroke ten years ago which has left him with epilepsy, a weakened left side and dysphasia. Until starting at Aartisan, he has been unemployed since the stroke.

Jackie is Jackie's boss at Aartisan Crystal. Jackie remembers: “Fred called into the shop one day and asked us if we would employ him.”

Jackie told him that we might be if we could find a way that could do what we need, even if he was too disabled, can use their hands and co-ordination. So Fred came to work for us.”

Jackie remembers: “I was in the hospital for ten years ago, and I went along to find out when he started ACORN. Jackie asked me if I wanted to try a job at Aartisan Crystal.”

It's really interesting. Just getting out of the house is good. Being stuck indoors all day is really getting me down.”

Jackie Williams at ACORN, Townsend Street, Belfast, tel: (0232) 849500.



Jackie Bush checks over a piece of work. A stroke ten years ago left him with epilepsy, a weakened left side and dysphasia, but getting involved with ACORN got him back to work as a trainee glass engraver with the Belfast-based firm Aartisan Crystal.

FRANCIS K. NEILL STUDIO

Entrepreneur with US skills



What happens if I pull this bit here? Jaqueline Magee demonstrates one of her product range to local customer Sandra Winters.

ANTHONY MAGEE

“It also made me realise that I needed more management and business skills, so I started the course at Newry Technology Centre where I can learn skills that should let me have total control of the day-to-day running and administrative costs. “The toughest part of all was finding a supplier who could offer good quality chairs at a reasonable price. Eventually I got a response from GBL

Services in London and 18 months later we still have a sound business relationship. I have also just got the agency for Action Technology, suppliers of lightweight wheelchairs, for the whole of Ireland.

“What I would like to see, eventually, is every chair sold in Northern Ireland sold by me.”

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People spend a lot of time flat on their backs in the plaster theatre at Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast, often being fitted with body casts. So, to prevent boredom setting in, ArtsCare, the charity dedicated to bringing the arts into hospitals, thought that ceiling and wall murals might help. The results, by artist Nora Gaston, certainly brought a smile to Rory Davidson's face.

PETER HUSTON

A kickstart for disability arts, but in which direction?

by Michael Morgan

Northern Ireland, it has to be said, has never been seen as a major player in the disability arts movement. But all that is set to change.

"An exciting development" was how Dr Jeremy Harbison, the conference chairman and under-secretary of the Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Security, described the first conference on arts and disability in Northern Ireland, held on 12 May at Craigavon Civic Centre.

This sense of being at the start of something new was a recurrent theme behind most of the speeches.

The US ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy-Smith, spoke of her own commitment to disability arts in Ireland, and her role in Very Special Arts, the main arts and disability organisation in the Republic.

Close north/south co-operation in all areas of disability art was repeatedly assured throughout the day, and the commitment to disabled people was further underlined by Donal Deeny QC, chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

The conference was the culmination of months of intense effort by the Arts and Disability Forum, a sub-group

set up within the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for this purpose.

The Forum itself represents a coming together of various arts and disability organisations in Northern Ireland, such as ADAPT, Open Arts and ArtsCare, as well as interested disabled people themselves.

Reaction to the conference was, in the main, favourable. Although nobody was entirely sure as to what direction disability arts in Northern Ireland is headed - still less what direction it should be headed - there was a general feeling all round that we were at last on our way.

"A very good start," was how Elspeth Morrison, one of the main guest speakers, who works for the BBC Disabled Programmes Unit, described her overall impressions of the day.

Away from the main conference hall, a series of arts workshops were held, ranging from mask making to computer-assisted music presentations and an excerpt from Replay's drama production *The Great I Am*. There was also a lunchtime performance by 22 dancers from the Killadeas Dance Group.

Back in the main hall, the conference ended with a discussion on "The Way

Forward", which could have been subtitled: "Where do we go from here?"

However, at 4.50pm, with the conference winding up, perhaps this wasn't the best time to discuss matters cerebral.

Michael Morgan is a freelance journalist and Open Arts member.

Douglas dinosaur triumphs



A dinosaur design has won Stuart Douglas, 14, (above) from Limavady High School, Co Londonderry, a cup and £25 for the best overall entry in the 1994 National Deaf Children's Association's art competition.

Two hundred hearing impaired young people from all over Northern Ireland took part, competing in five age groups. An exhibition was held in Belfast in May.

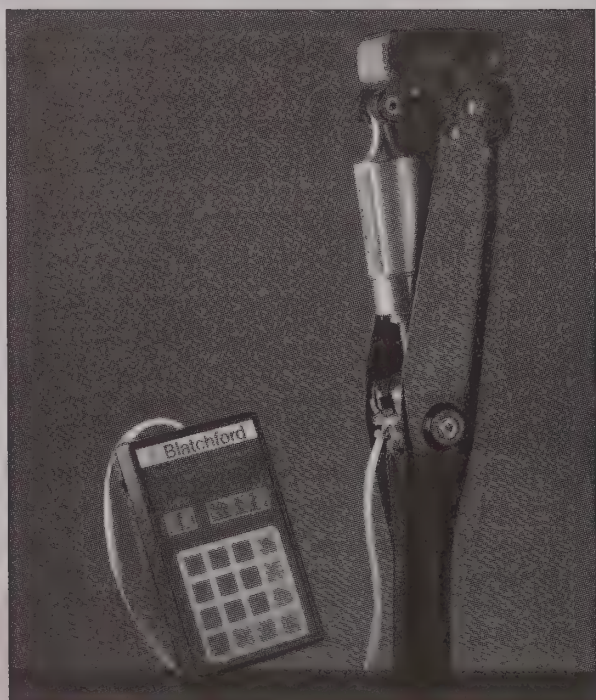
Stuart won overall prize for the second year running. Last year he featured Minnie and Mickey Mouse at Disney. This year, inspired, he says, by the film *Jurassic Park*, he did a collage, sticking on bits of paper torn from magazines.

James O'Neill, a fellow of the Ulster Academy of Art and a judge, said: "We are constantly surprised at the numbers entering this competition and the diversity of the subjects painted. It is very difficult to pick the winners."

The winners were:
Under 6 years, Stephen Kennedy
6-9 years, Patrick Lavell
9-12 years, Simone Smith
12-14 years, Peter McCamphill
14-16 years, Stuart Douglas.

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Lucky Lizzie gets good respite care

Joan Shannon lives in an area with good respite care, where parents' needs are listened to. Others are not so lucky, she finds

Our 13-year-old daughter, who has severe learning difficulties and multiple disabilities, goes off cheerfully to stay with her "respite care" family for one weekend a month, with a longer spell in the summer.

She is one of 42 children receiving free respite care on a regular basis from 27 trained and assessed host carers in the Causeway unit of management in County Antrim.

Causeway is within the Health and Social Services (HSS) Northern Board. (Northern Ireland is divided into four administrative areas: North, South, East and West.)

The respite scheme has been operating for six years and, according to respite care co-ordinator Ruth Morrison, most children in the area whose carers have asked for respite are now getting it.

There are plans to extend the scheme to physically disabled children and to adults with learning difficulties, as some children near adulthood.

A domiciliary scheme has just started, with a trained person coming to look after a child in the child's home.

We parents would like a small, local, residential facility, offering emergency cover, because however concerned and well-intentioned the host families might be, they have their crises and problems too. Our views were heard sympathetically by our director of social services in February, but no answer has been given yet.

Barnardo's has free, family-based schemes in every area except the West. Its Home from Home project at Magherafelt (Northern Board) includes Cherry Lodge, a three-bed residential unit at Randalstown.

The manager, Matt Collier, has a brain damaged son, aged ten. For him, "Respite care is about child-centred need as well as being parent oriented. I would define respite care as something which is carefully planned over a long period of time, offers the child a variety of experiences and where the main aim of the service is to enhance the development of the individual child."

But he thinks a residential unit is not the answer for emergencies, as booking arrangements have to ensure that a unit covers its costs.

Linda McClure, another Barnardo's worker, who runs a "respite resource unit" at Willowgrove in Banbridge



No respite problems for Lizzie Shannon: she "cheerfully" leaves Joan for her other family

JIM MCCOLL/CARERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(Southern Board) agrees. "We try to keep a bed free for a real emergency, but it is difficult ... we may have to ask a family to change a booking so that we can admit an emergency."

Our daughter, Lizzie, has a twice-weekly free visit from a Crossroads Care paid attendant, who usually gives her a bath.

Crossroads aims to provide high quality, flexible and adaptable home-based respite. Their thirteen schemes help carers of disabled children, as well as elderly, sick and disabled adults.

While no Barnardo's or Crossroads schemes exist in the Western Board, Foyle Carers in Derry have been offering a domiciliary service for five years, using volunteer helpers. They also run a carers' support group.

Pioneering respite

In Omagh, also in the Western Board, family-based respite is ten years old. When hospital admission 34 miles away in Derry was the only respite available - not the last-ditch emergency option it is today - a group of parents campaigned for local provision.

Co-ordinator Delma Irvine says that the supply of host families has to be replenished regularly, but one host carer has been with them all along.

Urban, family-based respite schemes, like Breakaway in Belfast (Eastern Board) are less successful than in the rural areas. Claire Waring, a respite co-ordinator, said: "Recruitment is slow and there is an urgent need for more host families. Our waiting list is long and getting longer."

The small administrative area covered by the scheme means that people often get referred back to their home area. "And south Belfast has a very mobile population, with a lot of students and elderly

people."

Gail McKibben, from Belfast, is a spokeswoman for Families in Contact and has a ten-year-old son with Down's Syndrome. She says: "Two-thirds of our members are single parents. There is very little in the way of respite in this area, especially for children with profound disabilities. For every child they take ... there seem to be scores on the waiting list. Respite is a totally individual thing for each family, so you need a range of options to have a real choice. We are

lucky to get any respite at all, never mind a choice."

Government report

Promoting Social Welfare, a Government report on personal social services, published in March, admitted "there is still unmet need" for respite care for people with learning difficulties. It talked of a major survey by Mencap, funded by the Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services, which will be published soon.

For children with physical disabilities, finding respite care

can be desperate. Last month Brian McIlwaine, advice officer at the Dial Centre in Belfast, had a paraplegic girl, aged eight, for whom he had tried all the usual contacts. "It seems there's nowhere for children under 16 ... Holiday places like the Share Centre in Fermanagh are booked up months in advance. I've spent two days on and off the telephone ... The mother is under great pressure. It's a terrible condemnation in this day and age, especially where children are concerned."

Respite care in Northern Ireland is patchy and varies even within each Board. Most schemes concentrate on children with learning difficulties, although this may be changing.

Services are usually free, except for Board residential care, which is means-tested.

The growth of HSS trusts, now up to 13, has worried some parents, who fear they may have to start paying.

But, according to a spokesperson for the Eastern Board, where all units now have trust status: "The advent of trusts does not change the existing arrangements for respite care."

Promoting Social Welfare, the chief inspector's first annual report 1993, Social Services Inspectorate (NI), should be in your local library. Barnardo's, tel: (0232) 672366. Crossroads Care, tel: (0232) 310603. Mencap, tel: (0232) 691351.

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22 NORTHERN IRELAND SPECIAL: INFORMATION

Need help and advice? Want to know what's going on in Northern Ireland? DN's info guide points you in the right direction

INFORMATION/ADVICE

Arthritis Care, 31 New Forge Lane, Belfast BT9 5NO, tel: (0232) 669882. Advice, information and a newsletter.

Carers National Association, 113 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP, tel: (0232) 439843. Information and advice. Helpline, weekdays 9.30am-12.30, daily 7pm-11pm, tel: (0232) 246262.

Disability Action, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3UR, tel: (0232) 491011. Campaigns for improvements in benefits and services for all disabled people. Telephone information service, weekdays 2pm-3.30pm. Benefits information line, Mondays 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm.

Disabled Drivers Association, 159 Ravenhill Road, Belfast BT6 0BP, tel: (0232) 484492. Advice and information. Local groups in Londonderry, Newry and Belfast.

Down's Syndrome Association, 28 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7FE, tel: (0232) 243266. Network of 13 parent support groups and a resource centre open daily, 9am-4pm.

Family Planning Association Northern Ireland, 113 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP, tel: (0232) 325488. Training, resources and support on sexuality for disabled people and professionals.

Habinteg Housing Association Limited, 12 Sullivan Close, Holywood BT18 9HL, tel: (0232) 427211. Independent living schemes for disabled people.

Multiple Sclerosis Society Northern Ireland Branch, 34 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3JJ, tel: (0232) 644914. Information and advice. 18 local groups.

NICOD, Malcolm Sinclair House, 31 Ulsterville Avenue, Belfast BT9 7AS, tel: (0232) 666188. Accommodation, training and support for people with physical disabilities.

Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, 21 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7FJ, tel: (0232) 320184. Information, advice and leaflets.

Sense, Resource Centre, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saint Field Road, Belfast BT8 8BH, tel: (0232) 705858. Support and advice for deaf-blind young people.

174 Trust Carers Social Group, 174 Trust, Saltshaker Centre, 174 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AJ, tel: (0232) 747114. Support, friendship and social events.

EQUIPMENT

Bradbury Surgicals, Boucher Road, Belfast BT12 6QS, tel: (0232) 663135. Lightweight wheelchair and sports chair supplier.

Disablecare, 339/343 Donegall Road, Belfast BT12 6FQ, tel: (0232) 230744. Mobility vehicles and wheelchairs.

Disabled Living Centre, Musgrave Park Hospital, Stockman's Lane, Belfast BT9 7JB, tel: (0232) 669501 ext 2708. Demonstration, assessment and information service on equipment for disabled people. Visits to the

centre must be arranged in advance.

Homecare, 11 Great Northern Street, Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7FT, tel: (0232) 664167. Supplies and maintains all types of disability equipment.

MG McElmeel, 15 Ballyscandle Road, Armagh BT61 8BL, tel: (0861) 525333. Suppliers of equipment for disabled drivers and passengers.

The Moorings Marketing Company, 12 Markstown Crescent, Cullybackey, Ballymena, tel: (0266) 881590. Ramps, bath and shower units supplier.

M R Mobility, 15 Commons Hall Road, Newry, tel: (0693) 65755. New and used lightweight wheelchair supplier.

SERVICES

Disability Action Driver Assessment Service, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3UR, tel: (0232) 491011. Driver assessment centre to help any disabled person who wants to drive. A mobile assessment service is available outside Belfast.

Phabline Mobile Information Coach, 24-26 North Street Arcade, Belfast BT1 1PB, tel: (0232) 322690. Mobile advice and information service for disabled people unable to gain access to other information services.

Staying Put, 3 Redburn Square, Holywood BT18 9HZ, tel: (0232) 428314. Helps elderly and disabled people to remain in their own home by repairing it, improving it or adapting their existing accommodation.

PUBLICATIONS

Diary Dates, a monthly newsheet which lists events organised by members of Disability Action. For subscription rates, contact the Policy and Communication Department, Disability Action, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3UR, tel: (0232) 491011.

Fermanagh Talking Newspaper, a weekly round-up of local news and events. Free to people with a visual impairment. Details from Arthur Mitchell, Derrygiff, Enniskillen, tel: (0365) 348764.

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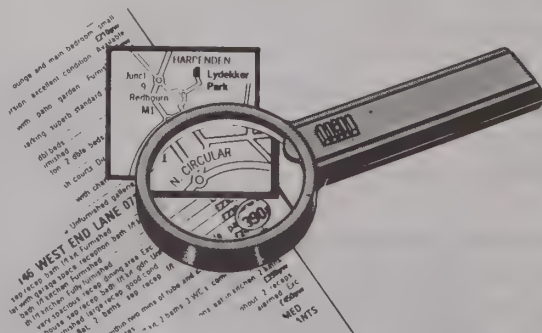
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WHAT'S ON

Mobility Roadshow, Belfast, a motor show for disabled people on 17-18 June at the King's Hall, Belfast. Come along to the DN stand and meet the team (see special subscriber offer on page 15). Details from the Transport Unit, Disability Action, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3UR, tel: (0232) 491011.

For Care and Action, a seminar on assessing older people for community care packages on 21 June in Ballymena. Free. Details from Lorna Carnegie, Age Concern Northern Ireland, 3 Lower Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NR, tel: (0232) 245729.

Agencies in Consortium for Education and Training - Creating a Vision for 2000 and Beyond, a conference on developing citizenship for people with severe learning difficulties on 22-23 June in Belfast. Details from Belfast Institute of Further Education, Brunswick Street, Belfast BT2 7GX, tel: (0232) 245891.

Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Week, a series of events organised around Northern Ireland on 4-10 July. Details from the Alzheimer's Disease Association, 11 Wellington Park, Belfast BT9 6DJ, tel: (0232) 664100.

Down's Syndrome Awareness Week, fundraising, social events and activities around Northern Ireland on 4-10 July. Details from the Down's Syndrome Association, 2nd Floor, 28 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7FE, tel: (0232) 243266.

Mothers and Toddlers Group for Deaf Children, weekly meetings at the Ulster Institute for the Deaf, Wilton House, 5 College Square North, Belfast BT1 6AR, tel: (0232) 321733.

Long Mat Bowls, every Sunday at the PT Watson Stadium, Belfast. Details from Northern Ireland Paraplegic Association, 2 Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3UR, tel: (0232) 491011.



International Very Special Arts Festival

The first International Arts Festival, in May, brought together disabled artists of all artforms from around the globe.

Organised by Very Special Arts of the USA (logo above) in a European setting, Brussels, the Festival highlighted Disability Arts world-wide - not an easy task - and there were inevitably problems of organisation.

However, it was a rare opportunity to meet artists from every country in the world and every state in the USA.

As my band, Fish Out of Water, was performing, the first two days were rather taken up. Heart 'n' Soul were there as well.

The third and last day allowed me to take in some of what was going on. I was impressed by the professionalism. Disability Arts is alive and thriving. Some countries, like Spain, the USA and England were more advanced, yet each country had something to offer and all those attending had the opportunity to observe or perform, or do both.

I saw a visual arts exhibition by the 12 member states of the European Union, which included work from Joyce Finney, Colin Hambrook and Ivan Baron. I heard poetry from Rhode Island, USA, and saw dance from Nigeria, theatre from Iceland and music from Spain.

My overall impression was positive. The USA successfully staged a worldwide festival in Europe. Maybe Europe should take a leaf out of the USA's book and do the same for itself.

Genie Cosmos

ARTY FACTS

Artsline is to take over the sign language performance listings previously in *DAILY Magazine*. Up-to-date computer print-outs available. Minicom/tel: 071-388 2227.

Want to train for the theatre? Jackson's Lane Theatre runs two annual courses leading to a City & Guilds qualification. Contact the development worker, tel: 081-340 5226.

For video list, see page 26

Blink, it might go away



Dr Ryan Pierce (Peter Friedman) takes a gander at Emma Brody's (Madeleine Stowe) cornea

FILM

Andy Kimpton-Nye



I guess, and I hasten to add it's an informed guess, that one of the main reasons behind director Michael Apted's decision to make this below par romantic thriller was a desire to recreate what it's like for a blind woman who regains her sight.

What leads me to this conclusion? The press notes about the production. In these, it is apparent that director Apted, cinematographer Dante Spinotti and visual effects supervisor Art Durinski had a

ball playing around with special lenses, filters and digital computers to concoct a style they dubbed "Emma-vision", the visual world of the female lead in the film.

Emma (Madeleine Stowe) was blinded as a child. Her mother caught her putting on make-up and smashed her head into the mirror as a punishment. The adult Emma's disability is linked to the trauma of this episode as much as anything else.

(Isn't it amazing how so many forms of physical impairment are explained away as being "in the mind"?)

Making her way in the world as a musician, Emma is offered a double cornea transplant and is able to see again. But she witnesses a serial killer hot-footing it away from her neighbour's flat. Emma has "seen too much".

Is her newly restored sight playing tricks with her? Detective John Hallstrom (Aidan Quinn) thinks not. He decides his best bet to catch the killer is to stick around Emma. Particularly as it becomes clear she could be the next victim. And, well, John just can't keep his hands off her.

All this is engagingly played by Stowe, who starred in *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Quinn*, and as Benny from *Benny & Joon*.

What, for the most part, is a pedestrian thriller turns out to be downright preposterous when we discover the workings of the serial killer's mind. He was obsessed with a young woman who died and donated her organs to medicine. And now he wants them back.

It seems like the makers of *Blink* were so preoccupied with "Emmavision" they forgot about plausible motivation.

Acting Up's Soft Room

This Soft Room is not, as its name implies, a safe, defined space in which to tumble amongst soft objects. It is an installation which includes an exhibition and live performance by actors/performers, musicians, computer/video experts and sound technicians. I visited it at the Stoke Newington Library, London, in April.

The exhibition is in the Soft Room, where pictures and computer images are projected on to two huge screens set at right angles to each other.

Changing images on the screens present a series of "rooms" which the visitor can interact with - fantasy worlds of moons and stars on a shifting sea of psychedelic colour, an arm reaching out, the hand exploring, talking heads. Very "Monty Python".

The screens and images are enormous. At first I felt extremely small and vulnerable.

It was difficult to make sense of what was going on until Simon Bigg, the visual

media expert, explained that the computer controlled the interaction of the images. By stepping into the space in front of the screens and shadow-touching the images, you interact with the computers.

There were also performances by Acting Up, an arts charity working with people with profound learning difficulties.

First, a video gave us a wheelchair eye view of the inside of an institution, probably Malpas community home, where the profoundly disabled performers lived. We had a "virtual reality" experience of being wheeled at great speed, seeing a table and pictures rear up and recede, being hurtled in one direction, only to stop abruptly. We heard weird percussion sounds, hollow and echoing.

Next, we saw a shadow in a

wheelchair behind a lighted screen. There was an unbearable cacophony of percussion and the figure seemed to strain upwards in an attempt to understand the sounds. Like the wheelchair ride, things were outside our control, with no chance of us interacting. Is this the experience of people with profound learning difficulties?

A mobile performer joined in. They came into the light, interacting by simple percussion and voice. This was lovely. The sounds made me think of a whale or a dolphin's call, reflected in sea-like visuals on the large screen. Real communication.

Finally, another video gave a brief history of Acting Up and their one-to-one approach.

As I could not take a group from my school, I can't imagine what their response might be. My own was mixed.

Sally Burrows

Future dates: tel: 071-275 9173.

TV



Chris Davies

Exceptional is the word for *The Lowdown Sam* (10 May, BBC1). A really positive portrayal of a young Asian boy with cerebral palsy, which showed other film makers the way forward. But exceptional in other ways too. Sam is extremely impaired and to treat him as the subject is a "double-edged sword". It could have been, but wasn't, full of tragic/brave messages.

The film was targeted at children, and it did imply that disabled children were all like Sam (his contemporaries at special school were also severely impaired). A small qualification, but important because children do need accurate information.

The film was also exceptional in that the family, having received compensation for the circumstances of Sam's birth, were not short of equipment. He also appeared untouched by the disabling factors of Asian culture.

These were the subject of *Fighting the Odds* in the series East (27 April, BBC2), an objective look at the less attractive side of traditions and habits which accompany cultures and religious beliefs.

I'm glad that people in the film were able to speak out. The least we can do is to assist them in their battle to be accepted as equal by their own people.

In *See Hear* (24 April, BBC1), Asian deaf women, isolated by their peers, form a self-help group. Maybe the answer to the problems in *East*.

With only three of the five programmes seen, my judgement of *Denied the 9 to 5* (BBC1, from 24 April) is tentative. Generally, it is a well argued, well put together investigation of disability and employment. The first programme looked at how, historically, disabled people have been misused (if used at all). The second programme looked at present day state provision in different countries.

This led to a big mistake. When examining America, instead of looking at how the Americans with Disabilities Act is being put into practice, it showed two people giving jokey awareness training. Of course, education has to accompany legislation, but the priority must be to prove the case for legislation. Luckily, the third programme showed how an American company actively employs disabled people. Don't let's give the opposition any further ammunition. They are doing far too well as it is.

Super mini - pity about the gearbox

David Griffiths, *DN's* motoring correspondent, test drives the Nissan Micra CVT three-door version to find out what all the excitement is about

Each time I get an opportunity to drive a car with constantly variable transmission (CVT), I do so in the hope that, just once, I shall see truth in the claims made for it.

Granted, the system fitted to the Micra is considerably better than some of its rivals, but it still mars (for a driver at least) what is otherwise possibly the best small car to arrive on our roads in 20 years. The problem is that CVT, CTX or whatever badge the system wears, is totally unable to transmit driver-intentions to the road wheels.

The previous Micra was renowned for economy, good access and simple, vice-free handling, making it a number one choice amongst those who sought a smaller vehicle yet needed space for a six-footer and a wheelchair. Automatic transmission was three speed, a bit jerky, and performance from the exceptionally reliable engine, whilst adequate, was hardly exhilarating.

The new Micra is endowed with a particularly responsive little power unit just a fraction under 1,000cc, yet offers a performance unmatched by many a larger-engined rival.

Brisk and spritely, yet rarely sounding stressed, it bowls this British built mini along with rarely a pause for breath.

Access with the three-door version is just as good as its predecessor, and headroom is excellent.

Suspension improved

The biggest improvement, however, is the ride quality. Nissan make much of the new 5-link rear suspension on the Micra. They're proud of it, and justifiably so. Bumps, depressions, pot-holes and adverse cambers are all soaked up with remarkable ease.

Only hard cornering gets things off balance. Such spirited driving seems to suit this little car, or so it would if it was endowed with a decent transmission. Alas, anything out of the ordinary sends it soaring up and down the ratios with gay abandon and scant regard for either safety or propriety.

Despite such a small engine, the Micra has power-assisted steering available as an option, making it easy to manoeuvre and park. At low speeds it is lighter than most of its rivals. Available on a basic model,

such as this one, it makes the car a wise choice for those with weak upper limbs and a limited budget.

As a basic model it is pretty basic - no clock, no trip mileage recorder, just simple two-speed wipers (intermittent wipe is really a necessity these days). Showery conditions with road spray made it difficult to keep the screen clear.

Exterior finish was excellent, but the plastic door panels are nasty and tacky, whilst some relief to the acres of grey interior would not come amiss. As for the shape - well you either love it or hate it.

The test car was fitted with hand controls from Wards Mobility. Neatly applied, they performed well and were commendably rattle-free.

Unfortunately, Nissan UK has seen fit to abandon the general Japanese trend of fitting the indicator stalk to the right (a feature which has saved many a hand-control user a few precious £s). I found myself using the back-up switch in the hand controls more often than I would have liked.

So, is it for you? If you had



"A performance unmatched by many a larger-engined rival"

or have an old automatic Nissan Micra and you drive on push/pull hand controls, it may well not be. A hill start is virtually impossible with CVT without rolling back, unless you have a free hand to hold the car on the parking brake.

Left-hemiplegic drivers will need to practice the time-honoured "heel and toe" to avoid the wrath of the driver behind.

If you are a driver who likes to "feel" what the car is doing and communicate your wishes through to the wheels, forget it.

But if you want a dinky, charming, accessible, comfortable little motor to go shopping, visit friends, pop over to Fred's on a Sunday and avoid visiting petrol forecourts or garage workshops very often, then it could well be.

Top of your shopping list

If you are able to cope with a manual gearshift, the Micra should be at the top of your shopping list, for there is little doubt that this Nissan Micra deserves the accolade of "Super mini".

However, it deserves (and needs) a better automatic transmission to make the most of its potential.

Nissan has erred on the side of caution about one little problem. CVT generates a tremendous amount of heat (ask a Fiesta owner living in hilly country). The Micra handbook must be the only one to include a warning not to park on flammable ground to avoid causing a major fry-up.

£8,272.92 on the road with Motability. Nissan Customer Care, tel: (0923) 899 334.

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A driven woman

In 1978, after a lifelong back problem worsened and her spine crumbled, Gillian Middleton accepted that she was now a wheelchair user.

Having worked for years as a state-registered district nurse, she was determined not to just sit back and watch the world go by.

Born in Birmingham 40 years ago, she now lives in Ossett, West Yorkshire. She moved there to be near Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield, where she was being treated for her spinal condition, termed as non-traumatic.

But Gillian also admits she wanted to be near Pinderfields as it houses the National Shooting Centre for Paraplegics.

From 1985 to 1989, Gillian represented Great Britain at international level as a paraplegic athlete, and holds two bronze medals from the 1988 Seoul Paralympics for rifle shooting.

This all-round sportswoman was also a shooter in basketball tournaments and took part in winter sports.

She competed in ice-hockey matches, bob-sleigh competitions and a version of speed-skating where competitors sit on sleighs and use ice picks to move themselves along the track.

Her love of the coastline brought Gillian on caravanning holidays to Bridlington, East Yorkshire, and she now spends a lot of time in her static caravan at a local site.



There is not much difference in technique between golfing sitting down or standing, but it's harder to putt accurately

Dianne Beckton

Gillian Middleton enjoys a challenge, and after bob sleighing, ice hockey, speed skating and two bronze medals for shooting in the Seoul Paralympics, her latest ambition is to become the first disabled golfer to hold a single-figure handicap. Dianne Beckton reports

hitting. But a couple of half-hour lessons with a golf professional set her on the right track.

Having played on pitch-and-putt courses in her own wheelchair, in March 1993

Gillian decided to try out a Handigolf buggy, specially designed for disabled players.

She still laughs about her first experience in the buggy at Skipsea Golf Centre in East Yorkshire.

"The buggies have seat belts but I did not think I needed it. I took one swing and came out of the chair, my arms went one way and my legs another and I ended up on the floor."

The buggies are battery powered with extra-wide wheels, so they do not mark the greens, and swivel seats to allow players to adjust their position to take a shot.

Gillian says the technique of playing golf from a sitting position is basically the same as standing, although players cannot look directly down on the ball.

The hardest part

She stresses the hardest part of the game for her is putting on the greens. "Because I am lower down in a buggy, I am not in a high enough position to study the ball's path to the hole."

Gillian says her game improved when she started using Ping customised clubs, which have specially flattened club heads and lengthened shafts to allow for the different angle of swing.

She was one of the first ever members at The Links at Bridlington Bay in East Yorkshire, which opened in 1993, and was the club's first disabled member. She has also been made the club's first lady vice-captain.

In her buggy, Gillian plays on the main 18-hole course at The Links and the Sir Henry Cotton Foundation Course, which was specially designed for disabled golfers.

Back in October, The Links was the setting for the 1993 Open Disabled Championship, organised by the Yorkshire Handigolf Foundation, a

national charity which promotes golf for physically disabled people.

This year, the 1994 Yorkshire Handigolf Tournament will be held at Wakefield on 20 June.

Gillian explains that the Foundation, of which she is treasurer, has 60 playing members and around 70 able-bodied affiliated members.

Its first golf tournament in Yorkshire was held at Skipsea and was won by Gillian with a round of 68 over the par 54 course.

In 1993, Gillian also won the Broxbourn Southern Open Championship at Cheshunt Golf Club near London.

Gillian says: "I would recommend golf as a great sport for other disabled people, since it is an individual game where you are simply competing against the course, with other golfers on equal terms."

The usual handicapping system applies to disabled players, and Gillian's handicap is 15 - for the time being.

Driving ambition

However, she has a driving ambition to become the first disabled player in the country to hold a single-figure handicap.

Another main aim is to help achieve international recognition for golf for disabled people, which she hopes to do through her work with the Handigolf Foundation.

For details of the Handigolf Tournament on 20 June, contact Handigolf Foundation secretary Bob Reynolds on (0704) 231577.

Latest sporting passion

It was here that Gillian discovered another sporting passion - golf.

"In 1992 I decided I wanted to try it, but I didn't think I would be able to do it. So I just went out in my wheelchair on the pitch-and-putt course in Filey, North Yorkshire. Once I had started, there was no way I could stop."

Gillian's first problem was one many lady golfers wish they had - she was over-

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Off to bonny Scotland!

Tom Nicholls of Llanwnda, Caernarfon, and Jennie Grieve of Nottingham are the lucky *DN* readers who will be taking an idyllic break in Scotland in July, fishing on the River Doone.

They are the winners of the 1994 *Disability Now*/Clos-O-Mat Fly Fishing Competition.

They beat over 50 other entrants with their correct answers to the questions (*see below*), plus evocative images of their idea of a perfect holiday spent fly fishing.

"Butter-yellow-bellied trout: creel in heather. Mole-black-magic midnights; musical reels; surging sea trout. Dewy-whiskered otters. A Spey-full of silvered salmon." This won Tom Nicholls, who is "addicted



Jennie Grieve and Tom Nicholls: salmon for tea?

to fishing" first prize - three days fishing and four nights in a first class hotel.

Mrs Grieve wins two days fishing and a three-night stay for "Flowing water, tight lines, beautiful country, friendly smiles. What more could an ideal holiday be, especially

catching fish for tea!"

Congratulations to them both, and let's hope they get fresh salmon for tea. Watch out for more pictures in September *DN*.

Answers: 1. Izaak Walton 2. Brown or Rainbow 3. Fishing guide/assistant 4. Mallard, Claret

BOOKS

Smooth Ride Guides - Freewheeling Made Easy: Australia and New Zealand

(FT publishing, 44 Talbot Road, Highgate, London N6 4QP, £9.95, or from branches of Dillons or Waterstone's)

Special offer

FT Publishing is offering this first *Smooth Ride Guide* to *DN* readers for £7.25 - a 25 per cent discount. Just cut out this box and send it to the address above, enclosing a cheque or postal order.

This first book in a new series has a lot of phone numbers. Every airline, support organisation, tourist trap and taxi company in the sub-continent must be listed here, in a handy-sized book with some nice colour photography.

After spending some time reading it, I was wondering whether there wasn't, perhaps, too much information for its own good.

The *Smooth Ride Guide* appears so comprehensive that a first-time traveller might be inclined to use it as a reference book rather than a guide and, as a result, miss a lot of what "the lucky country" has to offer. I personally know of several hotels, cheaper motels and "must-see" attractions which are perfectly accessible to wheelchairs, but which are not listed here.

Most of the background material seems to be

contributed PR-speak and I see in the introduction that the guide's compilation depended, in great part, on responses to a mailed questionnaire. That explains it. There is no substitute for first hand endorsement and this guide would have benefited from some market research carried out amongst disabled travelers who had actually been there.

Even if somewhere is not completely wheelchair friendly (places must cover their backs in print these days), there's no reason not to give it a go. Australians are always, unpatronisingly, ready to help.

On format, I would have appreciated some help on how to use this guide. The wealth of information comes at you in a torrent, with no discernable breaks between the regions or the categories. A bit of thumb or shade indexing would make the book easier to use.

Do use this and future *Smooth Ride Guides* to help you plan your holiday, but don't let them cramp your style while you're there.

Andy Healey

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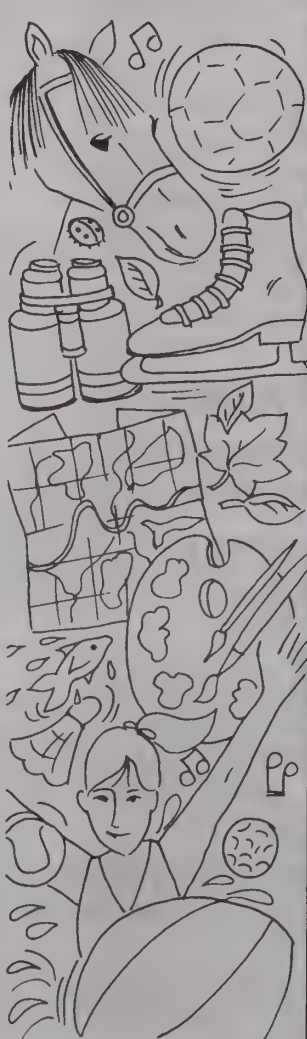


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Video top five

DN will be using the symbol (*left*) from now on to show which videos include closed captions. The other initials will remain: S: subtitles, N: nothing

1. THE FUGITIVE (Warner): Harrison Ford in re-make of '60s tv series. ☒
2. THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE (Entertainment Video): Facially disfigured Mel Gibson befriends young boy. (N)
3. SO I MARRIED AN AXE MURDERER (20:20): Comic thriller where marriage is murder. ☒
4. RISING SUN (Fox): Sean Connery in sexy, industrial espionage drama. ☒
5. WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? (Touchstone): Rock biopic on Tina Turner. ☒

Chart courtesy of MRIB

Look out for

Defiance: Art Confronting Disability is an exhibition of work by disabled artists at Bradford University's Art Gallery until 30 May. Information from Trevor Coombs, tel: (0274) 383365.

Out to Lunch, an exhibition of photography about mental health care by psychiatric survivor Mandy Holland, is at the Diorama Arts Centre, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London, 10-30 June.

Deaf Dance - learn to dance and create dance at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, with other deaf men or women aged 15-35, every Thursday till 7 July. Beginners welcome. £1 per class. Tel: John Wilson, minicom/fax 071-700 8138.

Good buys for summer

By Nazli Hussain

Whether you are shopping from the comfort of your home or out in the hustle and bustle of the high street, it's always fun to come across handy, well-priced items.

This month *DN* has been checking out some useful things, which shouldn't break the bank.

For a cheap and cheerful idea, how about **Coilers** Shoelaces? Hot foot from the States, these laces do not have to be tied. Coilers, which can be laced up with your shoes on your feet, are twisted through each eyelet and then pulled as tight as you want them to be.

With no tying or retying of knots, they could be useful for people with arthritis, back problems or limited hand co-ordination. £2.99 a pair or £4.99 for two pairs. Nancy Grant Enterprises, tel: (0425) 471254.

Irene Warburton, from Hampshire, who has multiple sclerosis, said: "I couldn't tie my laces myself before, so it's great being able to do them

after all these years. Coilers are very comfortable and ideal for elderly people as you don't need to bend down."

If you have problems putting on your stockings, the **Paratex Stocking Aid** may be the answer. You can put them on sitting down without having to bend or barely lift your leg. Made of pliable plastic, the aid is virtually unbreakable and hand washable. Using tapes, the frame guides your stocking into place. £9.50 (plus 50p



Coilers "knot" a problem



Snugglebags, a carry-all and sleeping bag in one. Ideal for brightening up wheelchairs too.

p&p). Claydon Services, tel: (0237) 431727.

Snug-as-a-bug

You will travel light with a **Snugglebag**. A handmade, carry-all and sleeping bag in one, it saves suitcases and makes packing fun. Available in bright colours, Snugglebags are lightweight but warm, and can be used for long car journeys.

Designer Sue Shephard says wheelchair users prefer a Snugglebag to a blanket. "People smile when they see the bags, as they brighten up wheelchairs. They're practical and an instant cheer-up - especially for kids."

Snugglebags come in two sizes: standard (up to seven-years-old) and extended (up to adult size). £39.95 and £47. The Snugglebag Collection, tel: (0582) 769172.

Take the strain

Gathering up the grass cuttings may not be your favourite gardening job, but **Chester-care's Rubbish Bag Holder with Stand** will help take the strain. Suitable for all seasons, the large plastic sack has a rigid-handled frame and extension stand. It avoids you having to stretch or bend unnecessarily. £5.99 (plus £1.50 p&p).

A **Necklace Magnifier** is a great help with reading and for looking at things closely, such as your watch. The magnifying glass with gold-coloured necklace has a diameter of just over one inch, while the necklace is 30in long. £5.99 (plus 75p p&p), from Chester-care.

After a hard day of shopping a **Relaxation Tape** can reduce stress and anxiety, and make you sleep more peacefully. Chester-care has two tapes, *Seaside* and *Countryside*, designed to create an atmosphere ideal for relaxation. £9.99 each (plus £1 p&p). Chester-care, tel: (0623) 757955.

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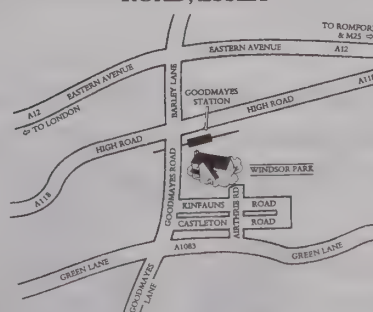
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Share Your Problems

Talking to yourself? It's good for you - honest



Ann Dambrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Do you ever talk to yourself? I do all the time, when I think I am on my own. What often happens is that I am muttering away to myself, trying to solve some knotty problem in my mind, when I get carried away and the talking gets louder and, yes, you've guessed ...

You fellow self-talkers may be as delighted as I was to discover that these conversations with ourselves are very good for us - provided that we use them to develop a positive view on life and to overcome problems.

I have discovered this from a book, *Life Scripts - How to Talk to Yourself for Positive Results*.

The author, Ursula Markham, provides a series of scripts with the words for us to use in these "auto-chatting" sessions. They are intended to help us come to terms with a tangle of emotions and to overcome all sorts of problems, including chronic pain, distress and much more. A sort of talk-to-yourself therapy.

I did not, however, find any scripts on one of the most important subjects for most of us - our sexuality. I wonder if

any readers could come up with some ideas for a script?

Bill (not his real name) sent me an audio tape in which he described some of the problems he faces as a physically disabled and visually impaired young man. He wonders whether ignorance about sex might not be the greatest bliss: "The more knowledge I gain, the more frustrated I become. However, I have always been conscious of my sexual side.

"Increasingly, I feel I need some sort of channelling agent for, as I am sure you are aware, sexual drive can be both a positive force and, if it isn't released, highly destructive and negative.

"Although I am a member of the Outsiders Club, which has provided some practical advice through their taped literature and mutual support, I find that when I go to make physical contact with females I am often frightened by my emotions.

"I fall in love less now, because I am emotionally vulnerable. When a woman takes an interest in me I get

excited. I wish to give positive messages, although the whole question of what constitutes appropriate behaviour is a complicated area, for it raises the question of whether there is a false sense of normality created by the dogma of non-disabled, so-called mainstream society. All I would like to do, really, is to hold a woman and share my life with her."

Richard from West Cameroon expressed similar doubts when he wrote to say: "Since I became spinally injured, I have had lots of doubts and questions about my sex life. In fact your column brought light to my doubts. I got to understand that even with a disability one has to love and be loved and that, with enough information, our sex life can still be exciting."

Talking about discrimination - we always are, aren't we? - we know all too well that disabled people experience some form of discrimination, depending on their disability and how they look.

What about those who suffer double discrimination because they are black and disabled?

Peter McDonald, who works at The Spastics Society, describes the low expectations his family had for him as a child with cerebral palsy.

"Whenever the subject of race came up at home, someone would remind me that, as a black person who was also disabled, my chances of achieving anything in life were probably less than zero. It was my 'destiny' to suffer discrimination twice and to miss twice as many opportunities as

the person who was 'only' black or 'only' disabled.

"When I asked for advice, what I generally got was: 'work hard, keep your head low and don't argue with anyone'. This is not the most useful advice to someone who is struggling to work out what kind of person they are and what kind of person they really want to be."

In past columns I have

A UNIQUE SERVICE!



The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic

counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath.

Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

DN's helpline is sponsored by The Wellcome Foundation Limited.

raised issues surrounding gay people who are also disabled. I have been talking to Keith May who is a visually impaired artist and consultant, and a campaigner for visually impaired gay people.

Keith says he is forming a national network "for people like us to make contact and air our views and problems". He says these could be of a personal nature or about prejudice and discrimination.

He plans to produce a taped newsletter. In the meantime, gay, visually impaired people can make contact on the Support Helpline, or write in large print or send a tape.

Keith also recommends Parents' Friend, a service for the parents of gay people who may have difficulty accepting that their son or daughter is gay.

And now for something completely different. In January, I raised the issue of using animals for research. Sue

Croshaw, who founded DAARE (Disabled Against Animal Research and Exploitation), had written to express her opposition. Michael responded by stating that it was essential for animal experiments to continue.

I have since received a letter from Carol Newman, scientific advisor at the Dr Hadwen Trust. She says: "It is a mistake to believe that all medical research depends solely on animal experiments, and that there is no hope of finding cures without them. Medical technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated and crude animal experiments are being replaced by a range of alternative methods which are frequently quicker, cheaper, and more effective.

"The Trust is a registered charity which exists to help both people and animals by funding the development of non-animal techniques in a wide range of medical fields. We believe that animal experiments are ethically unsound and scientifically unreliable, so we are looking for something better. The Trust will be glad to send further information to your readers about its work."

Finally, may I ask, what is your experience of community care so far? Did DN's *Fighting for Your Rights* article help? Do let me know, and let us have a discussion. I welcome your letters on any subject and I always reply personally.

Life Scripts by Ursula Markham, £7.99 inc p&sp from Element Books, Longmead, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8PL. Outsiders Club, PO Box 4ZB, London W1A 4ZB, tel: 071-739 3195.

Keith May, *Gay Visually Impaired Group*, 23 Ballard Court, Bury Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 3UA.

Support Helpline: (0705) 524739. Parents' Friend, c/o Voluntary Action Leeds, Stringer House, 34 Lupton Street, Hunslet, Leeds LS10 2QW, tel: (0532) 674627 or (0532) 577523.

Dr Hadwen Trust, 22 Bancroft, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 1JW, tel: (0462) 436819.

Sue Croshaw, DAARE, PO Box 8, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 4RQ.

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... NEWS QUIZ ... Answers page 35

1. Which football team won the League Championship?
2. Which political party won the South African general election?
3. Which motor racing driver was killed?
4. Which breed of bird had its nest guarded by Royal Artillery regiment soldiers?
5. According to a recent survey, what proportion of carers had not heard of community care?
6. Who was the losing finalist in the World Snooker Championship?
7. Which poet had his letters published?
8. Which ex-American president died?
9. How old was soul singer James Brown?
10. Which backbencher said that the Prime Minister should sack six members of the cabinet?

May winner

R Stacey of Killamarsh, Sheffield does it again with: "We should have ordered larger cups. These new tea bags won't fit in."

Thanks to all who entered.

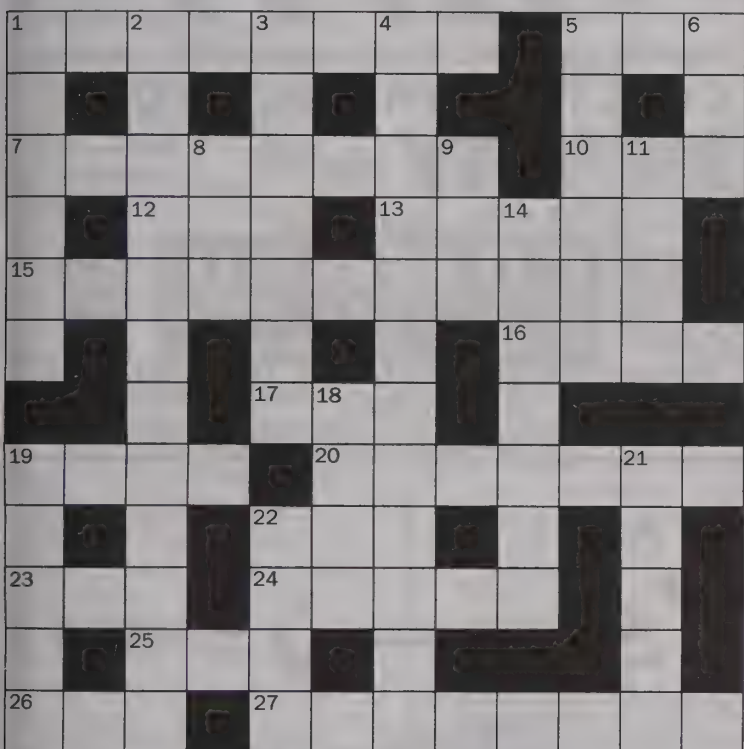


M ROBERTS

DN's crossword

Answers page 35

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Kindness (8)
5. Equip (3)
7. - dystrophy (8)
10. Type of vehicle (3)
12. Type of boat (3)
13. Type of Greek architecture (5)
15. Enormous (11)
16. Bird's home (4)
17. However (3)
19. Tuber (4)
20. Pave rim (anag)
22. Permit (3)
23. Boy's name (3)
24. Star constellation (5)
25. Sign of the zodiac (3)
26. Plaything (3)
27. Table tennis (4,4)

DOWN

1. Picnic basket (6)
2. Strangely or enigmatically (12)
3. Disobedient (7)
4. Liverpool St or Euston, for example (5,7)
5. Vainer (anag)
6. Firearm (3)
8. Drinks container (3)
9. Mould (3)
11. Highest or lowest cards (4)
14. Skittle (7)
18. Always (4)
19. Correct (5)
21. Type of emperor or candle? (5)
22. Circle (4)

Win a £10 prize

Rolf Harris, president of PHAB, launched a fundraising campaign in Richmond Park, Surrey, to raise over £500,000 for the Holly Lodge Wildlife Study Centre for people with special needs.

What could Rolf be saying as he "horses around" with the Royal Park's two shires? Is he discussing the British weather? Or could he be talking

Create-a-caption

about his didgeridoo? Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ by
Answers, please, to
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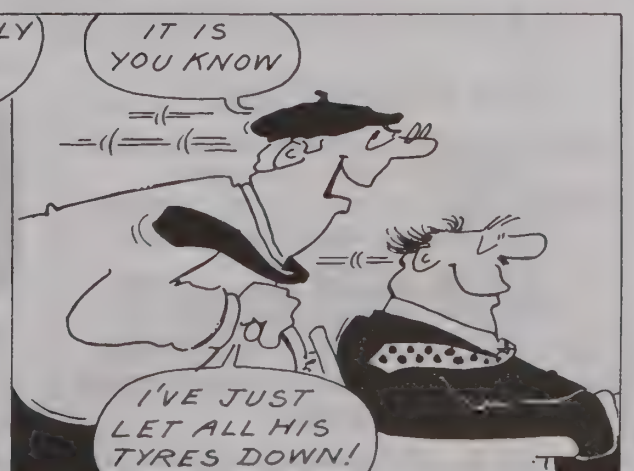
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We've got it taped

Did you know that DN is available on tape for partially sighted people or those who have difficulty holding a paper?

At the moment, this service is free. To go on our mailing list, contact Karen Bresloff, Subscriptions Manager, *Disability Now*, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ, tel: 071-383 4575.

The Doings of Dan Nugent ("DN to his friends") by Rigby



WHAT'S ON

Rights for Young Disabled People, an event for young disabled people and their carers on 10 June at Cardiff International Arena. Free. Details from South Glamorgan Intervol and Action on Children and Youth on Disability, tel: (0222) 485722.

Fife Carers' Week, a series of events between 11-18 June to raise the profile of carers. Details from Alison Herd, tel: (0383) 723600.

Stimulating the Senses, a course for professionals working with people who have learning disabilities on 14-15 June in Radlett, Hertfordshire. £95. Details from Playtrac Training Consultants, tel: (0923) 854861 ext. 4385.

National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Open Days, a two-day event for parents and professionals on 17-18 June in Birmingham. Free. Details from NDCS, tel: 021-454 5151.

Epilepsy and School Children, a conference on 21 June at the National Society for Epilepsy in Buckinghamshire. £70. Details from Alice Hanscomb, tel: (0494) 873991.

Vision in Education and Leisure, an exhibition for professionals and parents of visually impaired children on 30 June in Oldham. Details from Julie Robinson, Royal National Institute for the Blind, tel: 071-388 1266.

Regional Civil Rights meetings organised by The Spastics Society: 10 June, 5.30pm St Loye's School of Occupational Therapy, Topsham Road, Exeter. 18 June, 2pm, Dialstones Centre, Lisburne Lane, Stockport. 24 June, 2pm, IBIS Hotel, Southampton. 24 June, 7pm, Restormal Council Offices, St Austell. 25 June, 2pm, Cardiff International Arena.

Castle Priory
Care in the Community: A Design Workshop, 5-7 June. £264.38.
Challenging Behaviour - Non-Aversive Intervention Techniques, 9-10 June. £211.50.
Introduction to Multiple Disability, 20-21 June. £211.50.
Violence at Work, 27-28 June. £211.50.

Project for Advice, Counselling & Education (PACE) is offering two bursaries for counselling training for lesbians and gay men with disabilities. For an application form, contact PACE, tel: 071-700 1323. Closing date for applications is 30 June.

An incorrect telephone number for Arthritis Care's helpline was given in DN's May issue. The correct number is (0800) 289170. Apologies from Arthritis Care.

INFO

SHE UK is carrying out a study on sexual health and equality of disabled women. If you are a disabled woman and would like to get involved, contact Brenda or Kath at SHE UK, BM Box 5192, London WC1N 3XX.

Action for Blind People has opened a new, fully accessible training and information centre in Carlisle. The centre will offer students courses leading to national vocational qualifications in business administration and information technology. It is equipped with the latest computer equipment. Further details from Cath Clarke, tel: (0228) 595121.

Equipment for an Easier Life is a booklet published by the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA). Individual copies are free, 2-5 copies cost 50p each, 6-20

copies, 30p each, and 21+ copies, 20p each. A large print version is available free with a SAE. Contact RICA, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF.

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HELP!

Sesame, a voluntary organisation affiliated to The Spastics Society, is looking for families of children with disabilities in Kent to take part in a survey aiming to find out what families need in education, special equipment, transport and leisure. To take part, contact Les Parks,

Sesame, tel: (0474) 704721.

Calling all inventors. Desperate help needed to make C reg, Peugeot Estate accessible for wheelchair user. We do not want to change the car, despite the lowish roof - it has never let us down. What about a wheelchair that comes off the wheels? Ideas welcome. Please contact Patricia Whiting, Greybeck, Kinder Road, Hayfield, Stockport SK12 5HS, tel: (0663) 742701.

Paraplegic charity collector needs unwanted petrol coupons or Green Shield stamps to raise money for disability charities. Please send to Penny Reynolds, 3 Peper Harow, Horndean, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 9TW.

Got ideas about how colleges could make their courses more accessible? The Further Education Funding Council is investigating provision for students with disabilities and The Spastics Society is collect-

ing evidence from people with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities. Send your comments to Rosemarie McGill, Education Officer, The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. In return, you will receive a copy of the Society's report to the Council's committee.

To place an item in our Help column, send a £5 cheque made payable to Disability Now. This is to help cover our costs.

APPOINTMENTS

Gillian Ottley has been appointed head of the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. Dr Leslie Findley is now chairman of the Parkinson's Disease Society Council. John McFarlane has been appointed to the European Union's TIDE Project (Technology initiative for the disabled and elderly) as the UK Government's representative.

Info continued from p30

New Learning Together is a new magazine committed to developing education for all children in one mainstream education system. For details and subscription rates, contact John Hall, 2 Devon Terrace, Ffynone Road, Swansea, SA1 6DG.

Write Away is a penfriend club for young people with special needs. Members are encouraged to correspond using their own chosen means of communication such as drawing, braille or audio cassette. If you would like to join, contact Write Away, 29 Crawford Street, London W1H 1PL, tel: 071-724 0878.

Just a Little More Time is a video for carers to improve understanding of the medical, emotional and social needs of people with Parkinson's Disease. £10 to hire, £50 to buy from the Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA.

The 1994 edition of **Information for Visitors with Disabilities** lists over 270 accessible National Trust properties. Free (also in large print) with a SAE and self-addressed adhesive label, from Valerie Wenham, Dept PR, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS.

Disabled People's International (DPI) has relaunched its quarterly magazine. *Vox Nostra* is now called *Disability International* and features international news, viewpoints, profiles and campaigns. Available from DPI, 101-7 Evergreen Pl, Winnipeg, Mb. Canada R3L 2T3.

The Elderly Client Handbook is a guide to help solicitors provide the best possible service to elderly clients. £19.95 (inc p&p) from the Law Society Shop, 227 The Strand, London WC2R 1BA, tel: 071-242 1222.

Fancy skiing in the Highlands? Scotland's Alternative Skiers, based in Aberdeen, is looking for people with all kinds of disabilities who would like to become members. If you would be interested, contact Carol Scott, 32 Broomhill Avenue, Aberdeen AB1 6JY.

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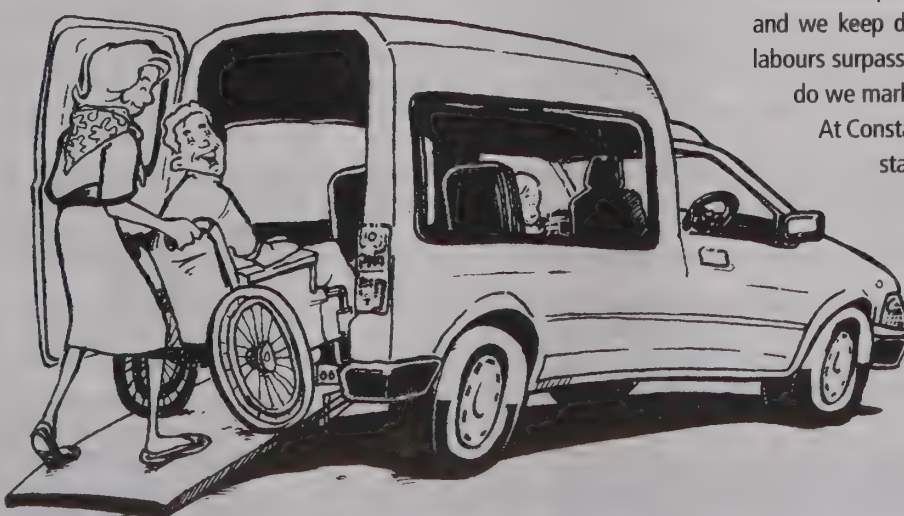
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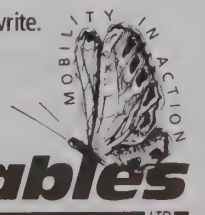
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SAFARI, PETROL-DRIVEN, invalid carriage, three-years-old, cost £3,500, will accept any reasonable offer. Tel: (0293) 402941 after 6pm (Crawley).

TRAPP TRICYCLE for disabled child (three to five-years), back support, foot plates and safety belts. As new, £150. Tel: (0773) 874219 (Derbyshire).

FOLDING MANUAL wheelchair suitable for standard doorways, £120. Also rising-seat armchair, £180. Tel: (0273) 304583 (Rottingdean).

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CARTERS CHEETAH powerchair. 16in standard seat, right-hand joystick, new July 1992, hardly used, vgc, £2,000. Tel: (0249) 720841.

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LARK THREE-WHEEL electric scooter includes battery charger and outside cover, £500. Tel: (0462) 892292.

BATRICAR, red/black, three-years-old, hardly used, £1,100 ono, includes charger and shopping trolley. Tel: (0568) 760661.

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LARK TRIUMPH three-wheel scooter with battery charger. 20-months-old, hardly used, £1,200 ono. Tel: (0323) 646402.

BEC TARGA electric wheelchair, three-years-old, hardly used, new batteries, last service March, standard seat (19in), front suspension, £1,300 ono. Tel: 091-384 2056 (Durham).

SHOPRIDER four-wheel scooter with front and rear baskets and auto battery charger. Genuine, as new condition, cost £1,850 without VAT, will accept £950. Also electric riser/recline armchair, excellent condition, £350. Tel: (0784) 253555 (Heathrow area).

ELECTRIC INVALID CHAIR, Lark 4304, three-wheel with charger. Hardly used, two-years old, in good condition, £900. Tel: (0474) 356550.

PRAIRIE 1.8, E reg, 2,200 miles, Broth-erwood conversion for wheelchair passenger. Purchased October 1993 for £11,100. Genuine reason for sale (bereavement). Bargain at £9,500. Tel: (0475) 784128.

ELSWICK ENVOY, A reg, wheelchair driven/hand controls. Regularly serviced, MOT, £2,500. Also shower wheelchair, £25. Tel: (0329) 667129.

RENAULT ESPACE, Atlas conversion, F reg, 56,000 miles, high roof and strong ramp. Will carry one wheelchair and five seats or two wheelchairs and three seats. Vgc, silver/grey, MOT, clamps. Near junction 4A, off M3. Tel: (0252) 511922 from 6 June.

BEC 80 electric wheelchair, dismantles to fit in car boot. Comes with charger, kerb climber, left-hand or carer control. Cost over £2,000, little used. Excellent condition, £975. Tel: 081-966 2601 (weekdays) or (0344) 23286 (weekends).

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, Elite Whisper, vgc with kerb climber. £950 ono. Tel: (0202) 730590.

CENTRAL & MOBILITY
SPECIALISTS IN QUALITY USED ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS, SCOOTERS AND BATRICARS
BOUGHT AND SOLD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
FULLY GUARANTEED
For a fast and efficient service call 021-544 3089 or 021-366 6796 anytime. Free puncture proofing on all machines.

ARE YOU A WHEELCHAIR USER?
Is getting out of your chair into your car becoming more and more difficult, painful or just too much for your driver/carer?
A Chairman Car from Gowrings means no more transferring, no more lifting, just travelling with the family whenever you choose, in comfort.
Ring us **FREE** on 0800 220878 for your full colour information pack.
GOWRINGS MOBILITY
Tel: 0635 871502

TALBOT RANCHO for driver and three passengers. Has Poyntings conversion for rear wheelchair passenger. Serviced, taxed, mot, 60,000 miles, £2,500 ono. Tel: (0905) 353979 (Worcester). No time wasters please.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR, 17in seat, Vessa Vitesse model 440, three-years-old, good condition, new motor, regularly serviced, £850 ono with charger. Tel: 071-703 0605.

ELECTRIC RECLINING armchair with leg rest and lifting action to standing position. Fully upholstered in Draylon, very comfortable. As new, only used six weeks, bargain at £700. Tel: (0372) 373890.

RENAULT RECRO auto-sleeper 2 plus 2, 1993, 1,000 miles only, as new, with wheelchair ramp and clamps, toilet, fridge, cooker etc. £14,000 ono. Tel: (0375) 891463 (Essex).

FORD TRANSIT, 1991, 18,000 miles, automatic, power steering, full conversion, Auto Ricon lift, five seats and wheelchair. Tel: 081-979 9246.

AUSTIN MAESTRO 1.6 auto, vgc, fitted with Bekker hand-controls and steering knob. Five-door hatchback, plenty of room, one year MOT, low mileage, £1,250 ono. Tel: (0268) 779486.

ESCORT, two-door, auto, E reg, 26,000 miles, hand-control, brake/accelerator, electric swivel driver's seat, knee lift bar, power steering, cruise control, flip-up pedals, central locking, electric windows, £4,950 ono. Tel: (0635) 248765 (Newbury).

STANNAH STAIRLIFT, presently installed in Birmingham, can be seen working. Excellent condition, suitable for straight stairs. Job transfer forces sale. £1,000 or £900 if new owner arranges removal of lift. Tel: (0443) 740791.

B REG VW CARRAVET, high top, sleeps four, 36,000 miles, vgc, auto with full auto wheelchair lift, clamps fitted, £8,000. Tel: (0642) 606953. Mobile: (0831) 875095.

AUTOCHAIR, £800. Hand-control £50, steering knob, £15 - both to fit Ford Fiesta. Tel: (0325) 312119 (Durham).

SWEDE 24F wheelchair with quick release wheels plus side panels, £500 ono. Contact Nigel Cook, tel: (0443) 227172 (24 hours).

PROPERTY FOR SALE
DETACHED BUNGALOW, Ottery St Mary, near Simouth, Devon. White oak kitchen, two bedrooms, garage etc. Adapted for disabled person. £74,950. Tel: (0404) 812606.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

NIAGARA MESSAGE PADS, hand units. Adjustamatic massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (0460) 61157.

POWERCHAIRS (MOBILITY CONSULTANTS)
Nearly new, hardly used Electric Wheelchairs, Scooters, Batricars. All models wanted and for sale. The right one to suit your individual problem.
Free Advice, Delivery, Collection. All Areas Covered. Free AA membership with every purchase. Ring Mr Gibbons 021-357 4965. All major credit cards accepted

SEND US YOUR SMALLS ... and make a big impression. Small ads in *DN* reach over 80,000 people for just £3 a line. All small ads must be paid for advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form on the left. Send it with a cheque for the total to *DN*, address page 2.

Classified lineage advertisements

Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement. Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to allow a space for each comma or full stop and a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

_____ (Part of the first line will be in bold capitals)

Send this coupon with your name and address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to *Disability Now*, to:
12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.
DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary at no additional cost. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. **Sorry no refunds. *DN* is a non-profit making newspaper.**

PERSONAL

For Personal ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

CARING MALE (36) with sense of humour, slightly disabled with arthritis but mobile, enjoys driving, pub lunches, watching tv, holidays and music. Seeks caring female with sense of humour. Any area. Box No. 670.

35-YEAR-OLD MALE paralysed, both legs and one arm, great sense of humour, wide variety of interests, seeks female (18+) for friendship. Box No. 671.

MALE (36), single, Merseyside area. I have a slight leg disability, fully independent, own home, car and responsible job. Interests include motoring, cinema, theatre, eating out, days out and music. I would like to meet a caring and sincere lady preferably able-bodied, but not essential, for a long lasting, meaningful relationship. Box No. 672.

HANDSOME MALE STUDENT, happily married, seeks disabled or able-bodied gay or bi male for friendship, correspondence. I am bi, but never shared my feelings with anyone, and so feel isolated and lonely. I am a wheelchair user due to a road accident. My interests include psychology, photography, computers, travelling and herbs. Box No. 673.

23-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, disabled, loves France seeks a French pen-friend of similar age in this country or abroad. Box No. 674.

HI, I am a disabled man (26) - friendly, affectionate and understanding. I would like to get to know a girl who is interesting and understanding for friendship, cuddles and cosy nights in. Contact me if you're fed up with being alone. Box No. 675.

PERFECTLY NORMAL INDIAN male looking for lots of pen-friends to exchange gifts and visits. I like all the good things in life, and I have a great sense of humour. All letters will be answered. Anyone interested? Box No. 676.

OUTGOING MALE with cp (wheelchair user) would like to meet female (25-35) for friendship, outings and good fun. West Yorkshire area only. Box No. 677.

INTELLIGENT, CARING and romantic Aquarian male, mid-30s, own home, 5ft 10in, slightly disabled, seeks close, tactile, loving relationship with reasonably attractive lady (25-35). Looks and character are far more important than disability. PS. I have two cats. Box No. 678.

MALE (33) with cp seeks a male pen-friend of similar age who likes meeting people and has own transport. Box No. 679.

27-YEAR-OLD female Open University student with Athotoid Cerebral Palsy. My hobbies are reading, cinema, cooking, cats, outdoor life and snow skiing. I have a wicked sense of humour, enjoy a good life and like to be in the centre of all activities. I would like to write to a sensitive, able-bodied guy (27-35). So if you are that guy, write with a photo of yourself and let's have a laugh. Box No. 680.

MALE (36) seeks meaningful friendship/relationship with caring, sharing, considerate, sincere, down-to-earth lady (30-45). Looks are unimportant - personal qualities are. Bury/Lancashire area. Box No. 681.

LADY, SLIGHTLY DISABLED (20), enjoys music, cinema and watching videos. Would like friends and possibly a loving man (20-27) with a good sense of humour. S London area. Box No. 682.

MALE (32) seeks disabled friends of any age or sex. Interests include music, travel and computers. Please write as I would like to make new friends. Box No. 683.

A TRUE FRIEND is required by a disabled graduate (male) of 45 years-of-age. Indian origin - came to Britain in 1967. Graduated in 1974 in Pharmacology. Did have Meningitis - now fully recovered. Box No. 684.

FEMALE (mid 40s), looking for friends in South Avon and pen-friends anywhere - both male and female. I use a wheelchair outdoors because of a back injury. My interests are New Age philosophies, natural therapies and writing. I enjoy meditation, massage, conversation, reading, tv, my two cats and my garden. I would like to hear from anyone who shares my interests. Box No. 685.

28-YEAR-OLD cp lady, just needs a helping hand and support to walk. Likes include Bingo, pop music, video films and reading. Would like a male (25-35) for friendship and possibly future romance. Must be single, have a car, no children, able-bodied or disabled near Derby. Photo please. Box No. 686.

There is a short waiting list for Personal ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately, it will probably appear next month.

MALE, 50, FRENCH, able-bodied, living in France, working in a university (History), wants to correspond, or more, with disabled ladies (leg amputees). Photo appreciated. Box No. 687.

ROMANTIC, 34-year-old, mobile male with rheumatoid arthritis, lonely in need of TLC, seeks attractive, able-bodied/disabled female nurse (or related profession) (25-38), for friendship/relationship leading to marriage. West London or South East region. Photo appreciated. Box No. 688.

WIDOWER, YOUNG 50, dark hair, green eyes, Is there a very caring lady (40-50) who could settle down with a chap with MS? Lots of interests, house (Kent area) and car. Photo appreciated. All letters answered. Make my life complete. Box No. 689.

PRESENTABLE, UNPRETENTIOUS gent, 57. Disabled, but independent, own home and car. Many interests including photography, PCW, books, radio etc. Would like to meet a lady (driver if possible) with a gsoh who would appreciate sincerity, sensitivity, affection and plenty of tlc. Wirral/Chester area. Box No. 690.

To reply to a Personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

FRIENDSHIP AGENCIES

081-958 9657
Dates
36 Park Grove for the Social
Edgware Disabled contacts
Middlesex A better life provided.
HA8 7SJ (All areas)

THE PHONE-A-FRIEND CLUB
"The Friendship Club" for new friends or more friends. Singles and couples aged 18+. Disabled welcome. SAE to 24 King's Road, London NW10 2BP. Tel: 081-459 4218.

Anybody - Any Age - Anywhere - Able-bodied or Disabled. Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship. **Mutual Essential Links**, 1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL. Tel: 0606 49093 (24hrs).

HANDICAP
Dating Agency

For people with disabilities. Be assertive and join Handicate.
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.
Telephone: (0473) 226950.
Currently we have fewer women than men and would particularly encourage applications from the female section. But nevertheless Handicate is open to both sexes.

HAD A GOOD HOL?

Have you just returned from holiday or are you getting ready to go somewhere nice? If you've had a super time somewhere, why not let other disabled readers know about it by writing an article for DN's holiday special, appearing in the January issue?
In the first instance, please send a brief letter to Mary Wilkinson, the Editor, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES



European Conference & Exhibition about access to the built environment

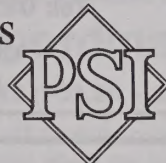
27 & 28 October 1994
at Chester Racecourse

CONFERENCE - Contact Lisa McCreadie-Tabaki, Cheshire County Council, County Hall, Chester, Cheshire CH1 3YZ. Tel 0244 602498.
EXHIBITION - Contact Bob Moss/Richard Evans, Austin Knight UK Ltd., Tel 061 834 8723.

Removing Disabling Barriers

Two-day conference at PSI

22 - 23 September 1994



The Policy Studies Institute is organising a two-day conference to look at policy options for addressing discrimination against disabled people. The conference will be held on 22 and 23 September 1994 at PSI's central London conference centre (which has disabled access and facilities). Topics to be covered include **employment, social security, education, access, transport & environment, and anti-discrimination legislation.** Speakers will include PROFESSOR MIKE OLIVER, RACHEL HURST, DR COLIN BARNES and RICHARD BERTHOUD.

For further details and booking forms, contact the Conference Administrator,
Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR
Tel: 071 387 2171 Fax: 071 388 0914

BURSARIES

Disability Arts Video Project

■ As part of the commitment to the development and understanding of arts and disability, the Arts Council in collaboration with the Regional Arts Boards, is creating a disabled lead video production fund.

■ Bursaries will be given for innovative and original approaches to proposals that deal with arts subjects and issues arising from the arts activities of disabled people.

■ For application forms send SAE marked Disability Arts Video Project, to your Regional Arts Board. If you are unclear which Regional Art Board covers your area contact Will Bell, Disability Arts Video Project, Arts Council of England, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Telephone 071-973 6455.

■ The closing date for the completed applications is 27th June 1994.

■ The Arts Council has an equal opportunities policy and warmly welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

WANTED

URGENTLY NEEDED, Nissan Prairie, either model with full Brotherhood conversion. Tel: 081-959 2101.

ROTATING CAR SEAT required. Must fit most makes. Tel: (0325) 356390. (Co. Durham.)

KEY GUARD and/or printer for BBC2 exchange concept key board. Tel:081-674 6905.

ALVEMA 100 wanted urgently. Contact Mrs Marsh, tel: (0442) 235124.

HOLIDAYS

Winged Fellowship
provides holidays for severely physically disabled people at five UK centres and on overseas and touring trips. Come alone or with a carer (one-to-one care is provided).

Write or 'phone for brochure: Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD (tel: 071-833 2594).

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL
"1992 Holiday Care Award Winners"
Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure. R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (0208) 850277 or 850617.

Mar Y Sol - Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for video and cheapest prices on flights.
Algarve - Portugal. Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or mini hotel with adapted rooms.
Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraybury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX. Tel: (0753) 685718.

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

St. Leonards, Sussex. 7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site. For colour brochure. Tel: Shepway MS (0303) 242009.

The Access Holiday Guide
Detailing many "Wheelchair Friendly Holiday Venues". Excellent value at £3.65 inc p&p from **Access Holiday Guide, 7 Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8LY.**

ISLE OF SKYE, SCOTLAND
Self-catering cottage newly built for disabled. 3 bedrooms. Situated at the base of the Cullin Hills with beautiful sea-view views. Comfortable, well equipped. Dogs and children welcome.
Tel: 0478 613044.

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS
SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED
Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT
Telephone: 0598 710241
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available.
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let.
Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6.
Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

Costa Blanca - Spain
Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

HFD **24 Hour Information Service**
Immediate List of Hotels, Guest Houses and B/B
Call: 0891 545563
Holidays Facilities Database, P.O. Box 1831, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7YU Telephone: 0850 881946
Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times.

More holiday ads on page 34

Did you know that *Disability Now* is a non-profit making newspaper and welcomes donations? If you can help, write to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

HOLIDAYS CONTINUED

ORLANDO, FLORIDA. HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME! Fully accessible, spacious, luxury, adapted bungalow. Golf/Country Club Membership. 3 Double Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms (Mangar Bathlift installed) Cable TV, Telephone. 10 minutes airport, 15 minutes Disney. DON'T MISS IT! Contact paraplegic owner, Sue Fisher Tel/Fax: 061 792 3029, 5 Park Lane, Broughton Park, Salford M7 4HT. Highly recommended.

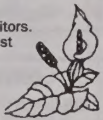
Loire Valley, France Auberge De La Tour

A small family run guest house catering for disabled people and their families and carers under the personal supervision of the owner who is a qualified nurse. Holidays inclusive of local excursions in a mini-bus with tail-lift. For brochure write or phone John and Pat Bartlam, 6 Capel Lane, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2QZ. Tel: 0395 266011 (Eves only).

Llandeilo, West Wales. 3 comfortable well equipped cottages specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th century castle and over-run by deer. Each cottage sleeps 4. Central heating, CTV, laundry, fitness room. Large orchard and a very warm welcome. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (0558) 823059 for brochure.

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS, STRATHSPEY
Newly restored traditional cottage in peaceful village. Wheelchair access throughout. STB cat. 2. Sleeps 5. Open plan living area, south facing sun porch, en-suite bathroom. Pinewoods, bird watching, pavement from garden gate. Tel: 0381 620802 or 0479 821642.

Picturesque COTTAGES
in rural GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
One for accompanied disabled visitors.
Self-Catering - Provisions by request
2 miles off Junction 13 M5.
Booking & Brochure
Tel: (0452) 740204
Write: Toesdale,
Whitminster GL2 7PN



NAISH HOLIDAY VILLAGE. New Milton, Hampshire. Fully equipped, completely wheelchair accessible, two-bedroom bungalow. Sleeps six. Site near sea with access to New Forest, Bournemouth, Excellent site facilities 100 yards from chalet. Details, Mr P Cash, tel: (0425) 672055.

LOOE, CORNWALL. Fully equipped, self-catering, two-bedroom bungalow. Sleeps six. Site near sea with easy access to beach, shop and camp facilities. Easily accessible for wheelchairs. Details, Mr P Cash, tel: (0425) 672055.

SOUTH WEST WALES
Luxury caravans (one specially designed for wheelchair users and their families). On beautifully situated, friendly family run park. 250 yds from sandy beach. Heated pool. Bar/restaurant. Games room. Sunrise Bay Holiday Park, Llansteffan, Carmarthen, Dyfed, SA33 5LP. Phone: 0267 83394.

"SOUTHDOWN"
A Holiday Home for the Disabled.
1 St Mary's Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9AE. Tel: (0255) 672790.
Offering full board and an awareness of the holiday needs of our less mobile guests and their carers.
RING OR WRITE FOR OUR BROCHURE
(Administered by the Southend Holiday Home for the Disabled Trust - a registered charity.)

YORKSHIRE DALES
Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome. Phone: (0423) 711747.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

Disability Information & Advice North East INFORMATION WORKER

Salary: £15,000 (1 year fixed term contract)

This post seeks to build on the research findings of the initial stages of the DIANE Project. It offers an opportunity to influence the development of information provision amongst self help groups and disability organisations and to ensure that other statutory and voluntary organisations develop a knowledge of good practice and incorporate this into their information provision.

This post is open only to disabled applicants and will be based at the Dene Centre, which is fully accessible to disabled people.

Closing date: 24th June

Further details and application form available from: DIANE Project, c/o Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1PH. Please send SAE and also state if you want the above in braille, large print or tape.



LEWISHAM ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATOR

Salary £12,195 (incl. London Weighting)
35 hours per week

We would prefer to appoint a disabled person to this post which entails running our very busy office and dealing with personal callers and telephone queries. Knowledge of disability issues and reasonable keyboard skills essential. Welfare benefits experience an asset. Applicants must demonstrate organisational abilities, tact and sensitivity.

LAPD is wheelchair accessible.

Job description and application form (available in large print and on tape) from:

LAPD 67 Engleheart Road, Catford SE6 2HN.
Tel: 081-698 3775. Minicom: 081-698 7384.

Closing date: Friday 24 June 1994
Interviews: Friday 15 July 1994

RAGLAN HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

The Association delivers housing services to over 5,700 homes through eight area and local offices in the South, the Midlands and the North West. We provide housing for a range of client groups, including people who are homeless or poorly housed, disabled people of all ages, retired people, families and others in housing need.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from suitably qualified and experienced people regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Anyone interested in working for Raglan or in finding out further information should write to the Personnel Officer, Raglan Housing Association Limited, Wright House, 12-14 Castle Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1BQ. Alternatively, you will see our job adverts placed in your local newspaper or in specialist journals such as *Housing Association Weekly* or *Inside Housing*.

We may not have any vacancies at present but will be happy to keep your details on file and contact you if and when the type of vacancy you are interested in arises.

DN CREDIT CARD HOTLINE

PHONE NOW

And take advantage of our special offer
14 issues for the price of 12

071 383 4575

This offer is open to new subscribers only

EMPOWERING DISABLED IN THE NORTH

Disability Action North East (DANE) have secured funding from the Baring Foundation and Charity Projects to employ a full time **development worker** on a two year contract to develop disabled people self organisation in Tyne & Wear, and work towards the formation of a Coalition of Disabled People in the area.

Disability movement or community development experience essential.

Open to Job Share. Full training and support given.

Salary: **£15,903 - £16,962**

The Northern Disability Arts Forum (NorDAF) wish to appoint a new **development worker** (3 days), focussing on outreach with disabled people and Disability Arts project development throughout the Northern Arts Region. Funded by Northern Arts and the Platinum Trust, this post is a job share with an existing employee.

Training and support given, office hours negotiable.

Salary: **£15,903 - £16,962 Pro Rata**

Both these posts are open to Disabled People only.

Application forms and further information from:

NorDAF, All Saints Church, Akenside Hill, Newcastle, NE1 2EW. Phone & Minicom 091 222 0708, Fax 091 222 0573.

(Specify NorDAF/DANE or both. Please state information format required; Print, Large Print, Tape or Braille.)

Closing date July 1st, interviews July 13th.

For further information on either post, ring Tom Shakespeare on 091 515 2192 or fax him on 091 515 2229.

DISABILITY ADVOCATE TAUNTON DEANE AND WEST SOMERSET

A flexible and enthusiastic person with initiative and good 'people' skills is sought for this position. The post involves increasing group and individual participation in decision-making, promoting disability awareness and promoting information services.

Applicants with disabilities would have valuable experience to bring to the post.

Hours 30 per week. Salary £8,547 - £10,235. The post is initially for a 1 year period.

For application form and further information contact - Harry Clark-Wilson, WHERE, The Portakabin, Fore Street Car Park, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8AG.

Closing Date 27 June 1994. Interviews 21 July 1994.

Hackney Chief Executive's Office

RECRUITING
QUALITY
PEOPLE FOR
QUALITY
SERVICES

Disabled Employee Resource Bank Co-ordinator

£19,581 - £20,619 pro rata

17.5 hours per week

Disability Unit

The Disability Unit wishes to recruit a JobMatch Co-ordinator to run this popular programme matching disabled job-seekers with Council vacancies.

This appointment is part-time (17.5 hours a week) and temporary - until 31st March 1995, to cover a secondment.

The successful applicant will be a disabled person with a thorough understanding of equal opportunities and discrimination at work, computing experience, and the ability to meet strict deadlines (JobMatch is issued weekly). You should also be able to promote the programme to disabled job-seekers and local employers.

Application form and further details from The Recruitment Office, Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA. Telephone: 081-986 5331 (ansaphone).

Please quote ref: CESX050/DN.

Closing date: 5pm 17 June 1994.

Shortlisting date: week commencing 20 June 1994.

Interview date: week commencing 27 June 1994.

We provide a smoke free work environment.

All applications for jobs are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Job share applications are welcomed with or without a partner.



NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Manchester United
2. The African National Congress
3. Ayrton Senna
4. The Red Kite
5. One quarter
6. Jimmy White
7. John Betjeman
8. Richard Nixon
9. 61
10. David Evans

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Humanity
5. Rig 7. Muscular
10. Van 12. Tug 13. Ionic
15. Elephantine 16. Nest
17. Yet 19. Root 20. Vampire
22. Let 23. Gus
24. Orion 25. Leo
26. Toy 27. Ping Pong
DOWN: 1. Hamper
2. Mysteriously
3. Naughty 4. Train station
5. Ravine 6. Gun
8. Cup 9. Rot 11. Aces
14. Ninepin 18. Ever
19. Right 21. Roman
22. Loop

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES please contact the Advertisement Director, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362 Fax: 071-237 8019

Disability Now Subscription Rates

Individual at home address: one year, £10, two years, £19.
Organisations/authorities: one year, £15, two years, £29.
Overseas: one year, £20.
Multiple copies: 2 copies £24; 3 copies £36; 4 copies £48; 5 copies £60; 6-9 copies £72; 10-50 copies £100; 51-100 copies £125. One year only.

adkc

actively working towards equality

ACTION DISABILITY KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

YOUNG PERSONS PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

Salary: Scale 4 Pro Rata £13,131 - £14,415
20 hours per week (Mon-Fri, 1.30 - 5.30pm)

A disabled person is required to be an Administrator for this project set up by the ADKC to broaden opportunities in training and leisure for younger disabled people (aged 16-45).

You should have sound administrative experience and methodical but flexible approach. Good communication skills, keyboard skills and enthusiasm essential.

We pursue a policy of equality of opportunity. The offices are fully accessible and finance is available for adaptations.

For further information and application form, contact ADKC on 071 937 7073.

Closing date for applications: 20th June 1994.
Interview date: 1st July 1994.

Deadlines for *Disability Now's* July issue: booking by 11 June, camera ready artwork/copy by 15 June.

Disability Access Officer

(Part-time)

E6 Pro rata £13,434 - £14,799

(Fixed term contract initially for one year)

Erewash is committed to enhancing the awareness of access and facilities for disabled people throughout the Borough. As an integral part of this, a key post has been established within the Technical Services Department to promote the needs of disabled people.

Duties will include promotional and research work; acting as a Community Liaison Officer by establishing links with local access groups and other relevant bodies; advising Council departments, developers, applicants and visitors on related matters and checking Building Regulation and Planning applications for satisfactory access and facilities for disabled people. It is essential that you have an awareness of the needs of disabled people.

Good presentation and communication skills are important. You must be able to demonstrate an ability to interpret legislation and evaluate proposals shown on plans and offer advice to designers and building owners. You will be expected to visit premises that may be only partially completed. Flexible hours based on 18½ hours per week may include some evening or weekend work. A current driving licence is essential.

The Borough of Erewash has a population of 108,000 and is conveniently situated between Derby and Nottingham adjacent to the M1 and within easy reach of the scenically attractive areas of Derbyshire.

For an informal discussion, please telephone Colin Hurt, Principal Building Control Officer on (0602) 461321 ext 643.

Application form and job description are available from Personnel Division, Erewash Borough Council, 1 Derby Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 5FE, telephone (0602) 444544 (24 hour answering machine), returnable by 18 June 1994.

An Equal Opportunities Employer

Borough of



EREWASH



KIDS North Kensington CENTRE DIRECTOR

Full-time 36 hours or job-share
£21,009 to £22,656 including LW (plus July pay award)



KIDS North Kensington is recognised locally as a key provider of services to families with children with special needs. We need a Centre Director (or two) to manage the Centre's work.

Our multi-disciplinary team provide a variety of services in three London boroughs. It will be your responsibility to enable them to maintain our reputation for high quality based on our equal opportunities policy and in partnership with parents.

You will have good awareness of the issues facing people with different disabilities. Ideally, we would like to recruit someone who has personal experience of disability.

We have a rich mix of abilities, races, cultures, religions and languages amongst our service users. Consequently, you must be able to actively develop the accessibility of services to all.

You will need experience of managing staff and finances as well as skills in working directly with families yourself.

For an application form and further information please telephone or write to:

KIDS National Office (North Kensington recruitment)
80 Waynflete Square, London W10 6UD.
Telephone: 081 969 2817.

Closing date: 20 June 1994. Interviews will be held in early July 1994.

KIDS is working towards equality of opportunity.

WALTHAM FOREST ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

WFAPD is looking for a disabled person to be its next

Coordinator



Salary £19,113 (P01.33 + 0.L.W) pro-rata for a 30 hour week

The Coordinator will have responsibility for implementing WFAPD's aims and objectives which are to promote equal opportunities and full participation in the community for disabled people. Current areas of work being undertaken by WFAPD include the establishment of self advocacy and independent living projects.

You will head a small team of staff based in the WFAPD office and will have overall responsibility for ensuring the smooth day-to-day running and financial viability of the organisation. You will need to have good communication skills, an ability to prioritise work and to manage change. An understanding of some of the major issues confronting the voluntary sector is important.

Closing date:- Monday 27th June 1994. For an information pack and application form, please contact Voluntary Action Waltham Forest, Unit 37, Alpha Business Centre, South Grove, Walthamstow, London E17 7NX, tel 081 521 0377 voice and minicom. Information on tape. The WFAPD office is accessible.

This post is only open to disabled people.

WFAPD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

AVON COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

A fast expanding organisation controlled by Disabled People, requires Disabled People to fill the following posts:-

COMMUNITY CARE WORKER (17 hours)

Salary: £14,319 - £15,288 (pro-rata)

This will involve ensuring that Disabled People in Avon understand and are able to access their rights in relation to community care through development work, training and information provision.

DISABILITY ARTS AGENCY CO-ORDINATOR (Jobshare: 14 hours)

Salary: £15,903 - £18,504 (pro-rata)

To manage and co-ordinate the work of the Disability Arts Agency within the overall structure of ACODP. A background in the arts is essential.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION WORKER (35 hours)

Salary £12,624 - £13,863

To provide financial and administrative support to the Independent Living Scheme, (Avon), which will be run by ACODP in partnership with Avon County Council.

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR (35 hours)

Salary: £14,319 - £15,288

To advise and support Disabled People who decide to live in the community and buy and manage their own personal assistants as part of the Independent Living Scheme, (Avon) run by ACODP in partnership with Avon County Council.

TWO DISABLED CONSULTANTS (fees to be agreed)

To carry out research and development work required by a Training and Enterprise Council on developing employment practices from a disability equality perspective. These will be short term contracts to be completed by April 1995.

The closing date for all these posts is MONDAY 20 JUNE. Applications are welcome in braille or on tape.

For further information please contact Wendy Lee, Avon Coalition of Disabled People, c/o Easton Community Centre, Kilburn Street, Bristol, BS5 6AW, telephone 0272-412063, (voice and minicom).

ACODP is working towards equal opportunities and particularly welcomes applications from Disabled People facing simultaneous oppression.

BBC TELEVISION

Trainee Assistant Producer/Researcher Science & Features

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SCIENCE ENTERTAINING FOR A NON-SPECIALIST AUDIENCE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EQUIP YOURSELF WITH THE CHANCE OF WINNING A PLACE ON ONE OF OUR TALENTED TEAMS?

Science and Features Department, Television, the largest television Science department in the world, which makes programmes such as *Tomorrow's World*, *QED*, *Horizon* and *Troubleshooter* is able to offer a number of nine-month training opportunities across the range of its varied output. At least one of these opportunities is reserved specifically for people from an Asian, Afro-Caribbean or a Chinese background, or a person with a disability, as these groups are currently under-represented within the department.

You must have a keen interest in, knowledge of, and enthusiasm for a broad range of scientific, technological and medical subjects and issues. Even more important, you must be able to communicate these in a clear and coherent way to audiences with varying levels of scientific know-how on BBC1 and BBC2. A degree and/or some kind of journalism or equivalent media experience is required. You should also be able to demonstrate your visual flair and imagination, and must be able to operate effectively as part of a team. You should be prepared to work outside office hours and away from home as necessary.

You may be asked to work on *Tomorrow's World*, *Horizon* or on one of the department's many documentary series. The traineeships will offer opportunities in research, learning about archive, developing ideas for film, selecting locations and contacting potential contributors. At the end of the training you should be able to compete for vacancies within the department, although employment cannot be guaranteed.

Salary c. £16,000 p.a. (pro-rata whilst training). Based West London.

This is advertised under Section 37 of the Race Relations Act (1976).

For a special Science & Features Application Form and information pack, please send a postcard (quote ref. 15313/D) by June 9th to BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151.

Application forms to be returned by June 14th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY



1993



Chris collects his championship trophy

GARY PRIOR, ALLSPORT

Chris nets fourth title

Chris Illingworth had to overcome a painful elbow injury to win the 1994 National Wheelchair Tennis Championships in Sheffield last month.

The 40-year-old Londoner, who fought his way back to fitness after missing most of last season through injury, beat defending champion Simon Hatt, from London, 2-6, 6-2, 6-0 in an exciting final at the Graves Tennis Centre.

It was Illingworth's fourth national title. He will now represent Britain in the World Team Cup at Nottingham in August, alongside Hatt and Leicester's Jayant Mistry.

"I'm really delighted with this win," said Illingworth. "Simon started very well, but I knew I could beat him if I kept plugging away. It feels great to be fit again and I can't wait to play in the World Cup."

Hatt was disappointed to lose his title, but gained some consolation in the doubles competition. Hatt, partnered by Jayant Mistry, beat Peter Norfolk and Bob Dockerill 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 in the final.

"I'm really pleased for Chris," said Hatt. "He played superbly, and will be an important part of England's World Cup team."

Janet McMorran, from Worcestershire, is the women's champion. She beat Kimberley Dell 6-1, 6-0. London's Sanjay Sharma won the Deaf National Championship's singles title for the second consecutive year with a 6-0, 7-5 victory over Scotland's Daniel Tunstall.

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CALLERS WELCOME



Chris volleys a winner

Bosnian star

The 1994 Inter Spinal Unit Games were held at the Guttman Sports Centre, Stoke Mandeville, in April.

The Games were organised by the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation for recently injured patients at England's 11 spinal units.

People were given the opportunity to play a variety of sports, including archery, table tennis and swimming.

Bosnian Nasad Cousevic was the star of the Games. He won the paraplegic archery event for Stoke Mandeville with a score of 315 and reached the semi-finals of the table tennis.

Odstock won the Inter Spinal Unit team trophy while the Harry Metcalfe trophy, awarded to the unit who participated in the most friendly and sporting way, was won by Musgrave Park, Belfast.

Bowled over

More than 80 players took part in the British Sports Association for the Disabled's National Bowls Championships at Scarborough last month.

Helen King, from Wales, won the group one title, while Scotland's David Heddle won the men's group three event with a thrilling victory over Yorkshire's David Hebblethwaite. West Midlands won the team trophy with a total of 40 points and Jayne Marsay was player of the championships.